The Herald-Palladium

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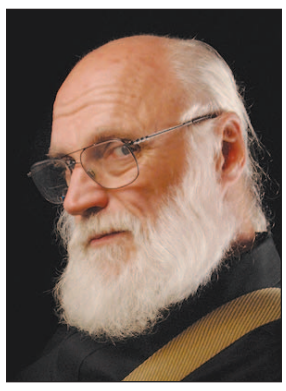
Sports, C1



Bluesman Duke Tumatoe to play Czar's

Entertainment, D1

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2014

$1

They ring in the season

10-hour shifts don't deter these dedicated Salvation Army bell ringers

By RALPH HEIBUTZKI
HP Correspondent

For the shoppers who rush past them, it's easy to think of Salvation Army bell ringers as just another feature of the seasonal landscape.

Behind those ringing bells and bright red buckets, however, are local residents with a few stories of their own to tell – and different inspirations for standing 10 hours at a time in all kinds of weather.

For Benton Harbor resident Barbara Herndon, ringing the bell feels like a natural outgrowth of her own service instincts. She's doing it for the first time this year.

"I help with my dad, doing home care for the elderly. I'm into people," Herndon said, smiling. "I did (care for) my mom, back in 2003, and I started doing my dad in 2011. I'm an old hand at this."

Staying on her feet for long periods, as Herndon was doing Tuesday afternoon at Walgreens on Hilltop Road in St. Joseph, doesn't feel like a stretch for someone who describes herself as a natural people person.

Asked what keeps her going so long, Herndon replied: "Just seeing the people coming in and out, saying, 'Hello, how are you doing? Have a merry Christmas, God bless you – thank you for your service and giving.' It makes your day go by."

Ringing the bell continuously – as Herndon did, with gusto – is also part of the territory.

"They hear the sound of this bell, and they know it's for a worthy cause. The bell is the incentive to bring the money, to help families in need," she said.

When she's not ringing the bell or helping her father, Herndon goes to Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, and would like to help at the Salvation Army day-care center.

"I've been blessed, and I'm going to be blessed through the Salvation Army, just doing my civic duty," she said.

Ralph Heibutzki / HP Correspondent

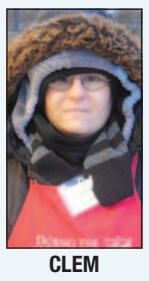
Barbara Herndon of Benton Harbor doesn't mind the long hours, sometimes in bad weather, that come with being a bell ringer for the Salvation Army during the holidays. "I've been blessed ... just doing my civic duty," she said. Here she collects donations on Tuesday at Walgreens in St. Joseph.

Back for another run

Coloma resident Jenna Clem is returning to the cause after a six-year absence.

"I have a 7-year-old son now. It's (been) kind of hard to find a baby-sitter," she said.

But Clem knows there is a need out there: "Somebody that's more needy than me, food-wise, (and also with) utility bills."



CLEM

Personal experience also has something to do with her reasoning. "I rely on Social Security, so I do rely on the Salvation Army to help out when I need help. I know what it's like."

On Monday she rang her bell at Walgreens' Glenlord Road store in Lincoln Township amid a steady drizzle that prompted her to bundle up. "I've got three pairs of socks, three pairs of pants, three shirts, a jacket and a coat."

For Clem, ringing the bell and interacting with a steady flow of people offers a marked contrast to her home life.

"I'm normally not a public person. I'm a home-bound person," Clem said. "I like to

See **RING**, page A3

Berrien County Trial Court

Masked robber gets long sentence

Man, 53, says crack fueled his crime spree

By SCOTT AIKEN
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — A Berrien Springs man who wore a Halloween mask when he held up a Royalton Township convenience store has been sentenced to a minimum of nearly seven years in prison.

James W. Baney, 53, pleaded guilty to the Oct. 13 armed robbery of the Pri-Mart Quick Shop at 4297 Niles Road.

Baney used a gun-style lighter to commit the robbery, police said, and got away with $88.

Baney also pleaded guilty to the Oct. 21 home invasion of a residence at 706 Vine St. in St. Joseph.

Baney was recently sentenced in Berrien County Trial Court to 81 months to 20 years for the armed robbery, and a concurrent prison term of 5-20 years for first-degree home invasion.

Under terms of a plea agreement, the prosecutor's office dismissed additional armed robbery charges and a charge of second-offense marijuana possession.

Baney was arrested following the Vine Street break-in and held on the marijuana charge.

Through a cooperative investigation by several police departments, Baney was linked to three convenience store robberies.

The victim of the home invasion told police that Baney, her former son-in-law, forced his way in after she answered the door. He took cash from her purse, telling the woman that he needed money for his crack cocaine addiction, according to St. Joseph police.

In the Oct. 13 Pri-Mart robbery, Baney entered the business wearing a mask and displaying what appeared to the clerk to be a small pistol, police said, and fled with cash.

He was also a suspect in two other armed robberies that occurred the same morning at Pri-Mart Fuel Center in Benton Township and the Citgo AGO gas station in St. Joseph Township.

Interviewed by Berrien County sheriff's detectives Oct. 23, Baney confessed to the three armed robberies. He told officers that he threw the mask and gun-style lighter into the St. Joseph River.

Contact: saiken@TheHP.com

Session yields 224 lame-duck bills going to Gov. Snyder

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — Michigan lawmakers ended their lame-duck session last week bleary-eyed, leaving the Capitol not long before dawn after passing legislation that had been caught up in bartering over a road funding package.

In 13 voting days after the November election, the Legislature sent 224 bills to Gov. Rick Snyder for his signature – fewer than the 287 put on his desk in the much more contentious 2012 lame-duck period. He vetoed eight of those bills two years ago, and still must review most of the legislation that still will land on his desk in the coming weeks.

Policies this time around were as diverse as gasoline taxes, the unionization of college athletes and the drug testing of welfare recipients. But unlike in 2012, when majority Republicans enacted right-to-work and abortion measures, they held off on enacting some bills that had drawn the most heated debate.

Those included attempts to divide Michigan's electoral votes in presidential elections and to give people stronger religious protections in discrimination cases.

Wrangling over a tax increase to improve roads – an issue that lawmakers decided should go to a statewide vote and that gave Democrats the leverage to kill unrelated bills – overshadowed the remainder of a lengthy agenda that included an agreement to see that sales taxes are collected on Internet purchases.

Here's a look at some of the bills:

Road funds

The centerpiece of a proposed $1.3 billion annual increase in transportation spending is a constitutional amendment to bump the state sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent and remove the sales tax from fuel purchases. If voters approve the measure in May, then related bills will also take effect – including the conversion of Michigan's 19-cents-a-gallon gas tax to one based on price. It would start at 41.7 cents per gallon and could rise annually by no more than inflation plus 5 cents.

Amazon tax

Major online stores such as Amazon, eBay and Overstock will have to collect Michigan's sales tax from customers starting in October unless they eliminate

See **LEGISLATURE**, page A3

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Index

Business	A3	Entertainment	D1	Obituaries	A5	Sports	C1
Classified	C4	Local	B1	Opinion	A4	Television	B3
Comics	B2	Nation/World	A2	Puzzles	B3	Weather	A6

Weather

High Today 37

Low Tonight 29

Sony hack becomes Internet's new mystery

By TAMI ABDOLLAH
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Everyone has a theory about who really hacked Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.

Despite President Barack Obama's conclusion that North Korea was the culprit, the Internet's newest game of whodunit continues. Top theories include disgruntled Sony insiders, hired hackers, other foreign governments or Internet hooligans. Even some experts are undecided, with questions about why the communist state would steal and leak gigabytes of data, email threats to some Sony employees and their families and then threaten moviegoers who planned to watch "The Interview" on Christmas.

"Somebody's done it. And right now this knowledge is known to God and whoever did it," said Martin Libicki, a cyber security expert at RAND in Arlington, Virginia, who thinks it probably was North Korea. "So we gather up a lot of evidence, and the evidence that the FBI has shown so far doesn't allow one to distinguish between somebody who is North Korea and somebody who wants to look like North Korea."

AP file photo

A movie poster for the movie "The Interview" on display outside the AMC Glendora 12 movie theater in Glendora, Calif. Sony Pictures broadly released "The Interview" to digital platforms Wednesday, a reversal of its previous plan not to show the film.

Perhaps the only point of agreement among those guessing is that even the most dramatic cybercrimes can be really, really hard to solve convincingly. When corporations are breached, investigators seldom focus on attributing the crime because their priority is assessing damage and preventing it from happening again.

"Attribution is a very hard game to play," said Mike Fey, president of security company Blue Coat Systems Inc. and former chief technology officer at McAfee Inc. "Like any criminal activity, how they get away with it is a very early step in the planning process, and framing another organization or individual is a great way to get away with something."

Unlike crimes in the physical world, forensic investigators in the cyber world can't dust for fingerprints or corroborate evidence by interviewing suspects. In prior closed-book cases, cyber criminals caught bragging online were only charged after evidence was found on their hard drives.

"The NSA (National Security Agency) has penetrated a lot of computers, but until Ed Snowden came around, nobody was certain because the NSA has the world's best operational security. They know how to cover their tracks and fingerprints very well," Libicki said.

After Sony was hacked, investigators analyzed network logs, the hacking tool and the remains of their crippled network. The investigation began after the attackers announced themselves and wiped the systems by crippling Sony's hard drives. Security professionals discovered that the hackers had been conducting surveillance on it since the spring. And if not for the theatrics of the Guardians of Peace, as the hackers call themselves, the breach could have easily continued for months without knowledge of the compromise.

Because North Korea is so isolated and its Internet infrastructure is not directly connected to the outside world, it's more difficult to trace attacks originating there. North Korea has vehemently denied that it was responsible for the attack.

Where to watch 'The Interview'

You don't need to leave your house to watch "The Interview." Sony Pictures released the comedy on digital platforms Wednesday. Viewers can rent the movie for $5.99 or buy it for $14.99. Rentals are good for 48 hours. The movie's running time is 1 hour, 52 minutes.

Here's where you can watch "The Interview":

Google Play: http://play.google.com

YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/movies

Xbox: This option is for those who own Microsoft Corp.'s Xbox video game console, a Windows smartphone, or a computer or tablet that runs Windows 8 software. http://video.xbox.com

Sony: http://seetheinterview.com

4 Ohio inmates challenge lethal injection drug law

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Four death row inmates are suing Ohio officials over a new state law that shields the names of companies that provide the state with lethal injection drugs.

Attorneys for the inmates claim in a lawsuit filed Tuesday that the law violates their free speech rights by concealing the identities of those to whom they would like to direct their messages about the death penalty. They also contend it restricts information that helps inform the public debate over capital punishment.

Supporters of the policy say shielding the names of companies that provide lethal injection drugs is necessary to obtain supplies by protecting the drugmakers from harassment.

Lotteries

Wednesday drawings

Michigan
Midday Daily 3
2-4-6
Midday Daily 4
6-3-1-2
Mega Millions jackpot
$156 million
Powerball jackpot
$100 million

Indiana
Quick Draw Midday
08-10-14-17-20-23-24-26-35-39-40-44-51-59-60-66-72-74-77-78
Daily Three-Midday
5-6-8
Daily Four-Midday
0-9-1-8

Illinois
Hit or Miss Midday
01-02-03-04-05-10-11-12-16-19-22-24, GLN : 2
Hit or Miss Morning
01-02-03-04-08-09-13-14-15-18-19-20, GLN : 1
Pick Three-Midday
1-8-6, Fireball: 4
Pick Four-Midday
7-4-1-6, Fireball: 6

Tuesday evening drawings

Michigan
Mega Millions
04-10-31-56-66
Mega Ball
7

Indiana
Cash 5
04-22-23-26-32
Poker Lotto
KC-6C-5D-8H-2S
Daily Three-Evening
5-1-8
Daily Four-Evening
7-9-9-1
Quick Draw Evening
12-14-15-24-29-30-32-33-42-46-52-59-60-63-64-69-72-73-77-79

Illinois
Hit or Miss Drive
01-02-03-06-07-08-09-10-13-14-15-21, GLN : 5
Hit or Miss Evening
01-02-05-06-08-10-12-15-16-21-22-24, GLN : 3
Pick Three-Evening
9-5-1, Fireball: 4
Pick Four-Evening
6-2-1-7, Fireball: 9
Lucky Day Lotto
03-08-13-20-21

– The Associated Press

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The Herald-Palladium

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Volume 129, Number 359

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David Holgate Publisher
Dave Brown Managing Editor
Stacey Ramsey Advertising Director
Barry Whitman Circulation Director
Robert Estes Business Manager

The Herald-Palladium is published daily, Mondays through Sundays, at 3450 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, MI and is a consolidation of The Herald-Press and The News-Palladium. Periodicals Mail postage paid at St. Joseph, MI (USPS 387-440). Postmaster: Send change of address to P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Member of The Associated Press and The Audit Bureau of Circulations.

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David Carson / St. Louis Post-Dispatch / AP

Toni Martin, front center, cries out on Wednesday as she talks to police at the scene where her son, Antonio Martin, was fatally shot Tuesday at a gas station in Berkeley, Mo.

Police officer kills armed 18-year-old near Ferguson

By JIM SUHR and JIM SALTER
Associated Press

BERKELEY, Mo. — The mayor of the St. Louis suburb of Berkeley called for calm Wednesday after a white police officer killed a black 18-year-old who police said pointed a gun at him. The shooting reignited tensions that have lingered since the death of Michael Brown in neighboring Ferguson.

St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said the officer was questioning two men – one later identified as 18-year-old Antonio Martin – late Tuesday about a theft at a Berkeley convenience store when Martin pulled a 9mm handgun on the officer.

The officer stumbled backward but fired three shots, one of which struck Martin, Belmar said. No shots came from Martin's loaded gun, the chief said.

Martin died at the scene, though Belmar declined to specify where the fatal bullet hit Martin.

Berkeley is near Ferguson, Mo., where white police officer Darren Wilson shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed, black 18-year-old, on Aug. 9, sparking weeks of sometimes violent demonstrations. A grand jury's decision to not charge Wilson last month in the shooting has spurred a nationwide movement to protest police brutality.

The 34-year-old, white Berkeley police officer, a six-year veteran of the police force in the 25,000-resident suburb, is on administrative leave pending an investigation, Belmar said. St. Louis County police and the city of Berkeley are investigating, Berkeley Mayor Theodore Hoskins said.

"He will carry the weight of this for the rest of his life, certainly for the rest of his career," Belmar said of the officer whose name was not immediately released. "There are no winners here."

The officer wasn't wearing his body camera, and his police cruiser's dashboard camera was not activated because the car's emergency lights were not on, Belmar said.

Police released surveillance video from the parking lot outside the store. The nearly two-minute clip shows two young men leaving the store as a patrol car rolls up, and the officer gets out and speaks with them. About 90 seconds later, the video appears to show one of the men raising his arm, though what he is holding is difficult to see because they were several feet from the camera. Belmar said it was a 9mm handgun – loaded with one round in the chamber and five more in the magazine.

Police were searching for the other man, who fled on foot.

It was the third fatal shooting of a black suspect by a white police officer in the St. Louis area since Brown was killed. Kajieme Powell, 25, was killed on Aug. 19 after approaching St. Louis officers with a knife. Vonderrit Myers, 18, was fatally shot on Oct. 8 after allegedly shooting at a St. Louis officer.

Each shooting has been met by protests, and a crowd quickly gathered late Tuesday in Berkeley. The demonstration involving about 300 people turned violent.

More than 50 police officers, some in riot gear, responded. Video showed some wrestling with protesters. Belmar said officers used pepper spray but not tear gas. Four people were arrested on charges of assaulting officers.

World

IS extremists capture Jordanian pilot

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Islamic State militants captured a Jordanian pilot after his warplane crashed in Syria while carrying out airstrikes Wednesday, making him the first foreign military member to fall into the extremists' hands since an international coalition launched its bombing campaign against the group months ago.

Images of the pilot being pulled out of a lake and hustled away by masked jihadis underscored the risks for the U.S. and its Arab and European allies in the air campaign.

The capture – and the potential hostage situation – presented a nightmare scenario for Jordan, which vowed to continue its fight against the group that has overrun large parts of Syria and Iraq and beheaded foreign captives.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

Israel strikes Gaza after sniper fire

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli forces on Wednesday struck targets in the Gaza Strip, killing a Hamas militant, after its troops came under attack by Palestinian snipers while patrolling the Israeli side of the border, the military said.

It was the first deadly clash between the sides since a 50-day war over the summer, and came days after Israel carried out its first postwar airstrike in Gaza in response to renewed rocket fire.

The Israeli military said air and tank units attacked targets on Wednesday following the sniper attack. It said one soldier, a member of a Bedouin Arab unit, had been seriously injured.

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After NYC deaths, a surge of support for police

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — Rocker Jon Bon Jovi donned a New York Police Department T-shirt on stage. Well-wishers delivered home-baked cookies by the hundreds to police in Cincinnati. In Mooresville, N.C., police and sheriff's officers were treated by residents to a chili dinner.

At a time when many in the nation's police community feel embattled, Americans in cities and towns across the country are making an effort to express support and gratitude.

"I'm showing a little solidarity for my brothers in the NYPD and all of those who protect and serve us every day," Bon Jovi told a cheering crowd at his concert Monday in Red Bank, N.J.

The surge of support is linked to two distinct but overlapping developments.

The immediate catalyst was the killings of two New York City police officers as they sat in their patrol car in Brooklyn on Saturday. For many of those making appreciative gestures, there also was a desire to counter the widespread protests – steeped with criticism of police – that followed grand jury decisions not to charge white officers for their roles in the deaths of black men Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner in New York.

Becky Grizovic, of Walton, Ky., helps orchestrate a campaign called Cookies for a Cop that provides treats to officers in more than 200 departments in 23 states. She was joined by her husband, son and a neighbor in delivering cookies to Cincinnati police stations on Monday.

At the District 2 station house, Capt. Jeffrey Butler said the gesture was especially appreciated in light of the deaths of the two officers in New York.

"The reason that this started is that I've just been so disheartened by the news," Grizovic said in a phone interview. "I wanted to do something positive to lift their spirits because this is so hard on all of them."

Rallies and vigils in support of police have taken place recently in several locations, including Nashville, Tenn.; West Orange, N.J.; Annapolis, Md.; and New York City's Riverdale neighborhood.

In Minden, Nev., there was a one-man rally in support of local officers.

John Munk, a retired sheriff's deputy, stood in front of the post office with a sign reading, "God Bless Law Enforcement."

"It's disheartening how people are treating law enforcement across the country," Munk told the Record-Courier of nearby Gardnerville. "I wanted to do this to show what a great community we have here."

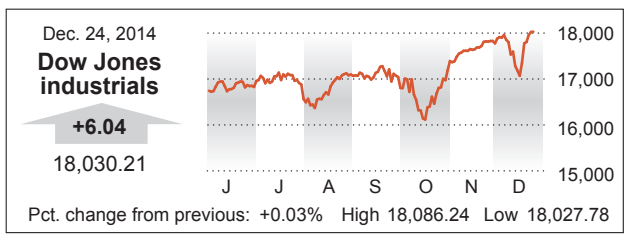
Another former officer, Rick Goforth, was the chef and organizer for Monday night's dinner in Mooresville, N.C., for which he served up 30 quarts of chili.

"I told the chief ... loosen your gun belt, man," Goforth joked with a reporter from Charlotte's WCNC-TV.

Kurt Hildebrand / The Record Courier / AP

Passing motorists honk as retired Douglas County sheriff's deputy John Munk of Gardnerville, Nev., holds a sign showing his support for law enforcement Dec. 22 in front of the Minden Post Office. "It's disheartening how people are treating law enforcement across the country," said Munk, who retired in 2012 after more than 20 years on the force.

MARKETS



LOCAL STOCKS

The local stocks graphic was not available by press time.

U.S. stocks eke out gains in shortened trading day

By ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

Major U.S. stock indexes ended mostly higher on Wednesday, with the Dow Jones industrial average adding modestly to its gains a day after closing above 18,000 for the first time.

It was the Dow's sixth straight gain, coming during a half-day trading session ahead of the Christmas holiday.

Investors welcomed Labor Department data showing that applications for unemployment benefits fell last week to the lowest level in seven weeks. The news came a day after the Commerce Department estimated that the economy grew in the July-September quarter at the fastest pace in 11 years.

The unemployment data show steady improvement in the labor market, which is positive news for the economy.

"We're still giddy after yesterday's GDP (report)," said Chris Gaffney, a senior market strategist at EverBank Wealth Management. "That's what's mainly driving this market."

The Dow gained 6.04 points Wednesday to close at 18,030.21. That's up 0.03 percent from a day earlier.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 0.29 points, or 0.01 percent, to 2,081.88. That's slightly below the S&P's most-recent all-time high recorded on Tuesday.

The Nasdaq composite added 8.05 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,773.47.

U.S. government bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note dipped to 2.26 percent.

The Dow and S&P 500 have recovered the last of the ground they lost in an early-December slump.

The stock market got off to a positive start early Wednesday following the labor market report and held onto to its gains throughout much of the abbreviated trading session. Shortly before the stock market closed at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time, the S&P 500 turned lower.

The stock market has been mostly trending higher the last two weeks after hitting a recent low of 17,069 on Dec. 16 as traders worried about plunging oil prices and a sharp drop in Russia's currency.

BUSINESS

Wal-Mart tests gift card exchange

NEW YORK (AP) — Starting Christmas Day, Wal-Mart is letting customers exchange gift cards from more than 200 retailers, airlines and restaurants for a Wal-Mart card. The cards don't expire and can be used in stores and online.

The exchange may send more shoppers to the website of the world's largest retailer.

It's a test program, but if it's successful, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said the card swap could become a permanent service. Wal-Mart spokesman Ravi Jariwala said the chain doesn't have specific metrics to evaluate that but will watch how shoppers react.

Shoppers won't get the full value of their gift cards to use at Wal-Mart. For example, with Amazon.com, customers can redeem up to 95 percent, while for Staples that figure is up to 90 percent and for Gap, up to 85 percent. For some brands, a Wal-Mart gift card will be worth just 70 percent of the original card.

Average mortgage rates edge up slightly

WASHINGTON (AP) — Average U.S. mortgage rates rose slightly this week but the benchmark 30-year low remained very close to the 19-month low hit last week.

Mortgage company Freddie Mac said Wednesday that the nationwide average for a 30-year mortgage edged up to 3.83 percent this week from 3.80 percent last week, which had been the lowest level since May 2013.

Other mortgage rates were also up by small amounts but all remained near historically low levels.

What stalled in Legislature's lame-duck session

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LANSING — Here's a look at some legislation that died in the recent lame-duck period and must be reintroduced in the Republican-controlled Legislature's next two-year session:

■ Updating Michigan's civil rights law to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Also dead is a state version of a federal "religious freedom" law designed to give more legal protections to people accused of discrimination but who say their religious beliefs conflict.

■ Creating a presumption that certain inmates be released after serving their minimum sentence and making other changes to the parole and probation system to save money and reduce recidivism. Lawmakers did vote to re-establish a sentencing guidelines commission to make policy recommendations to the Legislature and governor.

■ Forming a new statewide evaluation system for public school teachers and administrators, as called for under a 2011 teacher tenure law.

■ Ending Michigan's winner-take-all presidential elections in favor of dividing electoral votes proportionally.

■ Setting the 2016 presidential primary election date. The state Republican Party wants March 15 but some Republicans apparently disagree; Democrats haven't decided whether to participate in the primary or to have a caucus.

■ Fashioning an "early-warning" system so the state can intervene in financially distressed schools districts.

■ Updating a law that governs how children should be buckled up in cars, partly to ensure infants and toddlers are in rear-facing seats for the proper length of time.

■ Easing the ability of taxi alternatives Uber and Lyft to expand into Michigan under statewide regulations instead of local rules.

■ Changing the definition of renewable energy to count electricity generated by more items burned by incinerators.

■ Repealing a ban against scalping tickets to games, concerts and other entertainment events.

■ Letting nurse practitioners and other nurses with advanced training practice without oversight by physicians and prescribe drugs.

■ Overhauling the auto insurance law by cutting premiums and curtailing unlimited medical benefits for people catastrophically injured in crashes.

■ Making it a criminal act to pressure a woman into having an abortion.

■ Prohibiting "community benefits" ordinances by which local governments require developers to pay certain wages or hire certain contractors in exchange for economic development incentives. The bill also would block local paid or unpaid sick leave requirements.

■ Legalizing medical marijuana products that are alternatives to smoking pot and legalizing businesses that dispense marijuana to patients.

LEGISLATURE

From page A1

affiliate partners or relocate warehouses to other states. Brick-and-mortar businesses say their online competitors have an unfair advantage. The policy won't affect Internet retailers without a "nexus" to the state, but the policy could generate $50 million more in the first year.

Movie incentives

An incentives program used to entice filmmakers to make movies in the state will see changes and be extended by four years. Funding for the Michigan Film Office, which had been scheduled to end in 2017, will continue until late 2021. Legislators could still bolster or scale back the $50 million-a-year program in the annual budget process. Changes include calling for moviemakers to have higher ratios of Michigan workers and letting successful TV shows receive subsidies for longer.

Welfare drug tests

Michigan will begin giving drug tests to welfare recipients suspected of substance abuse. The one-year pilot project will occur in at least three counties. Recipients who test positive the first time will be offered treatment and still receive cash aid. Repeat offenders will be ineligible but can reapply if they later test negative.

Athlete unions

Athletes will be blocked from unionizing at public universities under a measure that says the athletes aren't public employees. Michigan is the second state to respond after Northwestern University football players were allowed to vote this year on union representation.

Cyberbullying

School districts will have to add cyberbullying to their anti-bullying policies and report bullying data yearly to the state. The law is designed to address the harassment of students through social media, text messages or emails.

BB guns

Michigan will loosen licensing restrictions on air guns and limit local governments' ability to set their own regulations except when BB, pellet and paintball guns are used by those under age 16. The National Rifle Association says Michigan is one of just four states to classify most pellet and air guns as firearms.

RING

From page A1

stay home and keep to myself, but here we are."

Asked what prompts her to break that routine – and why someone else might do likewise – Clem responded, "It's the Christmas season, and it's just the right thing to do."

Need has no season

On Tuesday, Benton Harbor resident Ronnie Bell was stationed at his post in front of Walmart in Benton Township, which he's done for five years.

BELL

Bell's commitment began after he received help from the Salvation Army.

"I was like that once – my gas got turned off, my lights got turned off, and they helped me turn it on," he said.

Having survived those experiences is all the motivation Bell needs to help out. "For people who don't have anything for Christmas, they get something for Christmas – you know what I'm saying?"

From that perspective, a 10-hour volunteer shift doesn't feel like a long time at all, in Bell's opinion. "You just talk to the people, you know what I mean? Just like you. I'm talking to you now. I enjoy it."

Bell offers some equally pithy advice for anyone thinking about manning the bucket, but who has yet to make the commitment.

"Tell 'em to try it. They might like it," he said.

The power of connection

First-year bell ringer Pearlie Washington of Benton Harbor manned Walmart's other main entrance on Tuesday, across the street from Best Buy.

WASHINGTON

Asked what inspired her to give the role a try, Washington responded: "Helping the children. It's very inspiring – you see a lot of people that give and you have hope for the future, for the kids growing up."

Ringing the bell is also a natural outgrowth of Washington's other main service experience.

"I also volunteer for the Trinity (Lutheran) Church in St. Joe. I help with the food trucks, prepare the food, and stuff like that," she said.

Like her fellow bell ringers, Washington doesn't have any problem with extended shifts. "You just talk, mingle with the people, and your day will go by quicker."

Monday proved more difficult, however, for different reasons.

"I had to leave yesterday, because (of) my sister. We took her off life support," Washington said. "But you've got to make it through the day."

So while she works through her loss, Washington tries to stay focused on the present, which includes a new job that she started last Friday at Burger King.

Like Bell, she recommends that others give bell ringing a try.

"I would encourage them to do it, because it's a lot of fun and you get a lot out of helping people."

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A scandal in our prisons

Neli Latson has a music player. Also, he can order snacks from the canteen, and leave his cell for several hours a day.

This is good news, or what passes for it, in the life of Reginald Latson, a 23-year-old with autism and an IQ of 69 who goes by the nickname of Neli. It is good news because, for more than a year, he has been held in solitary confinement in a Virginia prison.

Ruth Marcus

Except: Latson should not be in prison at all.

That's not to say Latson should be free. He is, by the accounts of those who know him best, a sweet young man who nonetheless can become aggressive when agitated. Winchester County jail superintendent James Whitley, who took the extraordinary step of testifying on Latson's behalf at two sentencing hearings, described him as "like a child wanting to please us."

Latson should be – and Virginia's mental health officials support this outcome even as its corrections system incarcerates him – in a secure residential treatment facility.

His journey through Virginia's criminal justice system began four years ago when he assaulted and badly injured a police officer who had demanded to know why Latson was sitting outside the public library. (Answer: Waiting for it to open. Hint: He was a young black man wearing a hoodie.)

That launched a self-defeating, seemingly perpetual cycle of imprisonment, release to a group home, and re-incarceration after police were summoned to the home to deal with an agitated Latson.

Next month, he is to stand trial on the most ridiculous charge of all: that Latson assaulted a correctional officer when, after being taken off his medications and threatening suicide, he was being transferred from a solitary confinement cell to a "crisis cell" with no mattress and with a hole in the floor for a toilet.

This scuffle warrants, at most, internal prison discipline, not additional prosecution by Stafford County Commonwealth's Attorney Eric Olsen, who describes Latson as a cop-hating, racist thug pretending to be "mentally retarded" rather than a young man with a disability in need of treatment.

Given Olsen's intransigence, the best outcome – for Latson and for the citizens of Virginia – would be for him to plead guilty and Gov. Terry McAuliffe to swiftly grant a conditional pardon that would allow Latson to be transferred to a secure treatment facility in Florida – a facility that's already agreed to take him and for which the state has secured federal funding.

Tragically, Latson's situation is not unique. Rather, it reflects the criminal justice system's difficulty in dealing with people with mental illness and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Indeed, Virginia reached an out-of-court settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice after being threatened with a lawsuit for failing to make adequate provisions to keep people with intellectual and developmental disabilities from being institutionalized.

The independent monitor overseeing the settlement last month asked the Justice Department to review cases like Latson's, where individuals with disabilities have been incarcerated, to determine whether the state was living up to the changes to its promises.

"Neli is important because he exemplifies one of the systemic problems that the settlement agreement addresses," said Alison Barkoff, a former Justice Department lawyer now with the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law.

"When services are not readily available in the community, behavioral health crises are often treated as a crime," Barkoff said. "It is counterproductive, costly and inhumane to punish people for their disabilities instead of getting them help."

This isn't just a Virginia problem. Criminal justice systems across the country are finding themselves swamped with prisoners with mental illness and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

These individuals need services and treatment; they have the hardest time complying with prison life. So they often wind up in solitary, punishment that serves only to exacerbate their underlying conditions.

Earlier this year, the Justice Department told Pennsylvania that its corrections system was violating civil rights law and the constitutional rights of prisoners with mental illness and intellectual disabilities by keeping hundreds in solitary for months and sometimes years.

Prisoners "are routinely confined to their cells for 23 hours a day; denied adequate mental health care; and subjected to punitive behavior modification plans, forced idleness and loneliness, unsettling noise and stench, harassment by correctional officers, and the excessive use of full-body restraints," Justice found.

I am hopeful that in 2015, Neli Latson will receive the treatment he deserves. I wish I could be more optimistic about thousands of other Neli Latsons languishing in prisons nationwide.

Ruth Marcus is a columnist for The Washington Post. Her email is: ruthmarcus@washpost.com

The hackers vs. the hucksters

If I were a cartoonist, a phrase cartoonists are loath to hear, I'd sketch a chubby imp donned in a diaper, sporting a chia mohawk and munching the last Big Mac on earth, while straddling a nuclear-armed missile that bears a striking resemblance to Dennis Rodman.

The imp's pudgy hands would be caressing a palm-sized computer by which he can digitally destroy the object of his wrath du jour. His target, you might have guessed, is Hollywood.

Kathleen Parker

You may have surmised why I am not a cartoonist. I have no talent for drawing, but you get the point: Little Kim Jong Un, supreme leader of the Democratic (cough, cough) People's Republic of Korea, apparently wasn't able to tolerate what we nutty Americans call political satire.

Or at least what Hollywood calls satire. Sony, specifically, considers it "satire" to blow up the face of the person described in paragraph one. What the movie lacks in wit is apparently compensated by the sort of antics that the mood-altered find fantastically funny. This is what earns the film the label of "stoner movie," for those who are not exactly riveted by the zeitgeist.

Then again, there is something about that face ...

Thus, the mad tyrant, whose rapacious curiosity includes wondering how long people can survive on a diet of grass, turns his basilisk gaze to the West where lesser mortals dare to mock him. Enter a fifth horseman of the apocalypse – the hacker.

What fun to expose the vanities of all vanities – snarky intercompany emails among the rich and famous about the rich and famous – and then to contemplate the genocide of moviegoers. How droll.

This is power. *This* is revenge of the nerd. This is lunacy – and a foreshadowing of worse to come? Kim says the U.S. is behind the film and claims to know nothing of the hack. President Obama speaks earnestly about the value of free speech while suggesting some sort of response.

What might this be? You hack us, we'll hack you back? A blistering lecture by the one to The Un? Such hackery only Thackeray could love.

Meanwhile, the maternal mind wanders to the scene in "The Conversation" when a woman observing a homeless man on a bench wonders whether he once was someone's pride and joy. This leads to the parallel question: Was Kim Jong Un once a bundle of love in his mother's arms, a happy little toddler whose chief delight was the endless rereading of "Goodnight Moon" or its equivalent?

Or did he first pull himself up from the floor only to unsheathe his tiny sword and cleave it through a kitten's neck? How the once-beloved child becomes the mass murderer is one of life's abominable mysteries. It is especially so to folks whose national mandate is to try to make life as fair as possible. That we sometimes fail does not diminish the aspiration.

Though I've not shared the pleasure of The Un's company, I'm sure the supreme leader has his moments of humanity. Don't they all? But experience also suggests that Kim is endowed with a case of "the tinies." Most bullies suffer not only a lack of self-esteem and empathy but also, one suspects, a certain masculine incertitude.

The "tinies" manifest themselves as follows: The tiniest infraction earns an abundance of punishment; the tiniest insult is received as a mortal affront; the tiniest bit of humor at one's expense is absorbed as an assault on one's honor – and dishonor must pay a price.

How to deal with North Korea will keep us busy through the holidays, but it does seem that Obama is well-suited to the task. From my own conversations with and observations of the president, it appears that Obama is intrigued by the psychological underpinnings of human motivation. Thusly attuned, he might find Kim a tantalizing object for examination.

Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar, Dr. Freud supposedly said. But sometimes, it's not.

Whatever strategies are devised, we may indulge ourselves in one morsel of sweetness – and I buried the lede. What we have been unable to do – convince Hollywood to take seriously its role in shaping culture as well as reward loyal moviegoers with quality over cheap stunts – has been temporarily accomplished by a smug and cruel little man with the tiniest sense of humor. Even though some theaters are now saying they will screen the film after all, the killing of "The Interview" was a holiday gift for all the wrong reasons.

Kathleen Parker is a columnist for The Washington Post.

ANOTHER OPINION

Putting a lid on methane from cattle

The $1.1 trillion omnibus spending bill signed by President Barack Obama contains many giveaways to Wall Street, casinos and the coal industry. But the ones that might do the most severe damage long-term have to do with, of all things, the digestive systems of cattle.

Through their manure and, yes, their flatulence, cattle are major producers of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that the public hears much less about than carbon. Methane breaks down much more quickly than carbon – after about 50 years – but during that time, it is 20 to 30 times more potent at trapping heat and is considered the source of a quarter of all global warming.

Yet the spending bill specifically barred the federal government from requiring cattle operations to report greenhouse gas emissions from manure or to obtain permits for methane produced by bovine belching and flatulence. Both sources of methane are controllable; there is machinery that can convert manure into biofuel, and changes in the diet of cattle can make a major difference in flatulence levels.

Methane also is produced by landfills and by the oil and gas industries, but the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that worldwide, the agricultural sector is the biggest contributor.

Reductions in methane and other highly potent short-term greenhouse gases would be a particularly useful short-term strategy to buy the planet some time as it combats the effects of climate change – effects that are sounding more and more dire with each new study. Reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have reflected sharply growing levels of alarm over the pace of human-caused global warming, which is occurring faster than predicted.

Of course it is difficult to forecast with specificity exactly what the fallout will be or when it will occur. Mistakes will be made in doing so. But the IPCC report points out that some of those effects already are being felt. Climate change is behind a small decline in global food production, it said. It also pointed to rapidly melting ice in the polar regions, rising sea levels and dying forests in the American West, infested by pests that thrive in hotter conditions. Uncertainty about the precise effects of climate change is not an excuse for inaction when the scientific consensus is clear. Congress shouldn't be handing short-term gifts to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association at the risk of great environmental harm.

– Los Angeles Times

I KNOW IT'S NOT REGULATION SANTA ATTIRE... BUT IT MIGHT PROTECT ME WHEN I GET TO THE U.S..
HANDS UP DON'T SHOOT
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Transparency needed on U.S. torture

By JOSEPH MARGULIES
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

Here's a radical idea: Let the people decide.

Since the release of the Senate Intelligence Committee report on torture last week, we have been treated to a predictable barrage of overheated hyperbole. The left says the CIA program was utterly pointless and needlessly brutal; the right says it was completely successful and entirely appropriate. Many have demanded prosecutions; many more have attacked the report as partisan and incomplete. Both sides squared off before most had even read the report, let alone studied it closely.

And even if people had access to it, they would be studying a heavily redacted summary of a much larger report that remains secret. There are no plans to release the rest of the report or to reveal the content of the redactions. More important, no one – as far as I know – has even suggested releasing the underlying documentation so people could form their own conclusions.

And so we are left with a bitter but inconclusive debate about one of the most important programs in our nation's history.

But what if, instead of vapid finger-pointing, we let the American people figure it out for themselves? What if we gathered everything about the program – not just the summary but the entire report, as well as all the underlying documentation – and let Americans make up their minds? What if, in other words, we tried radical transparency instead of mindless partisanship?

Scholars would probably take the deepest dives. Sociologists, political scientists, historians, psychologists and legal academics could plumb the depths of the material for decades, mining it for countless invaluable insights about the nature of the United States and the world in the 21st century.

Journalists also would be interested and could fill in gaps in the record, not simply by asking the questions they are paid to ask, but by digging deeper and unearthing the humanity of the men and women touched by the torture program. They'd thereby put a human face on the report's lifeless bureaucratic prose.

But in many ways, the professionals are the least important audience. It would be valuable for high school students writing term papers, elementary school teachers developing lesson plans and just plain curious Americans who want to figure things out for themselves rather than be told what to think by talking heads on TV. This is the audience that matters. The knowledge would be available to everyone.

Surely much of this material could be made available immediately. When CIA Director John Brennan addressed the report he emphasized that the episode was long past and encouraged the country to move on. The program ended years ago and the techniques are no longer in use.

Indeed, the CIA insisted on redacting names and places that are already known. Psychologist James Mitchell, for instance, is one of the two principal architects of the "enhanced interrogation" program. He has given a number of interviews freely acknowledging his role, yet his name is redacted in the report or a pseudonym is used.

This is not a technologically challenging project. Virtually all this material is digitized, which means it can be organized and easily searched. Nor would it be particularly expensive to do.

So, is there any chance of this happening? Absolutely not. The odds of meaningful transparency surrounding this program are zero. In the United States today, no major political actor and precious few media outlets are interested in transparent debate about contentious issues. We should pay close attention to this resistance because it reveals something important about the nature of American democracy.

Selective dissemination of the sort surrounding the torture report encourages partisan finger-pointing. From the perspective of the major political parties, this has the salutary effect of invigorating their core constituencies. To put it plainly, selective dissemination gets those who care to care even more.

And since the major parties depend on these people for money and support, there is a chronic demand that the core stay molten hot. The parties thus have no incentive to encourage transparency because it tends to reveal nuances and complexity and therefore appeals primarily to the more moderate, and politically disengaged, middle.

The result is a predictable polarization. Elites within each party who espouse the most radical views become the media darlings du jour, which encourages them to swing for the fences in their public remarks. Fed a diet of raw meat, the energized extremes within each party grow increasingly enraged at the apparent depravity and evident hubris of the opposition.

The result? Dick Cheney, the man the left loves to hate, makes the run of TV talk shows gleefully assuring the faithful he would do it all again. Cue applause.

Radical transparency is not just a campaign slogan. It is a prescription for democratic repair. And that's a pill the major parties will never swallow.

Joseph Margulies, a visiting professor of law and government at Cornell University, is counsel for Abu Zubaydah.

Saying a final goodbye

Roll call of some who died in 2014

By BERNARD McGHEE
Associated Press

AP file photo

Flowers are placed in memory of actor/comedian Robin Williams' Walk of Fame star in the Hollywood district of Los Angeles. Williams, the Academy Award winner and comic supernova whose explosions of pop culture riffs and impressions dazzled audiences for decades, died Aug. 11 of suicide at his San Francisco Bay area home. He was 63.

They each turned a moment of violence into a call to action. For James Brady, that moment came when he was shot and wounded by a would-be presidential assassin. For Chung Eun-yong, it was the killings of his two children during the Korean War.

Brady took up a personal campaign for increased gun control after surviving a head wound when a man tried unsuccessfully to kill President Ronald Reagan, for whom Brady was press secretary. Chung began a years-long quest for justice, which eventually prompted the U.S. Army to acknowledge having killed civilian refugees at No Gun Ri.

Brady and Chung, who died within days of each other in August, are among the notables who left the world in 2014.

Others included political figures who catalyzed war and peace and scientists who changed our lives. And we lost beloved entertainers, some remembered for bringing audiences decades of smiles and tears and others who left the stage long before their time.

Here is a roll call of some of the people who died in 2014. (Cause of death cited for younger people, if available.)

January

Saul Zaentz, 92. Music producer whose second career as a filmmaker brought him best-picture Academy Awards for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Amadeus" and "The English Patient." Jan. 3.

Amiri Baraka, 79. Militant man of letters and tireless agitator whose blues-based, fist-shaking poems, plays and criticism made him a groundbreaking force in American culture. Jan. 9.

Ariel Sharon, 85. Israeli general and prime minister who was admired and hated for his battlefield exploits and ambitions to reshape the Middle East. Jan. 11.

February

Philip Seymour Hoffman, 46. He won a best actor Oscar in 2006 for his portrayal of writer Truman Capote in "Capote" and created a gallery of other vivid characters, many of them slovenly and slightly dissipated comic figures. Feb. 2. Apparent heroin overdose.

Joan Mondale, 83. She burnished a reputation as "Joan of Art" for her passionate advocacy for the arts while her husband, Walter, was vice president and a U.S. ambassador. Feb. 3.

Ralph Kiner, 91. He slugged his way to the baseball Hall of Fame and then enjoyed a half-century career as a popular broadcaster. Feb. 6.

Shirley Temple, 85. Dimpled, curly-haired child star who sang, danced, sobbed and grinned her way into the hearts of Depression-era moviegoers. Feb. 10.

Harold Ramis, 69. Comedy actor, director and writer best known for his roles in movies such as "Ghostbusters" and "Stripes." Feb. 24.

March

L'Wren Scott, believed to be 49. She left her small-town Utah home as a teenager to become a model in Paris, then a top Hollywood stylist and finally a high-end fashion designer best known as the longtime girlfriend of Mick Jagger. March 17. Apparent suicide.

Jeremiah Denton, 89. Former Alabama senator who survived 7½ years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam and alerted the U.S. military to conditions there when he blinked the word "torture" in Morse code during a television interview. March 28.

April

Mickey Rooney, 93. Pint-size actor and all-around talent whose more than 80-year career spanned silent comedies, Shakespeare, Judy Garland musicals, Andy Hardy stardom, television and the Broadway theater. April 6.

Peaches Geldof, 25. Model and media personality who was a daughter of Irish singer Bob Geldof and member of a talented, troubled family who grew up in the glare of Britain's tabloid press. April 7. Heroin overdose.

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, 76. Boxer whose wrongful murder conviction became an international symbol of racial injustice. April 20.

Bob Hoskins, 71. British actor whose varied career ranged from noir drama "Mona Lisa" to animated fantasy "Who Framed Roger Rabbit." April 29.

Walter R. Walsh, 106. He captured gangsters as an FBI agent in the 1930s and went on to train Marine Corps snipers and become the longest-lived Olympian. April 29.

May

Jerry Vale, 83. Beloved crooner known for his high-tenor voice and romantic songs in the 1950s and early '60s. May 18.

Jack Brabham, 88. Three-time Formula One champion who famously pushed his car to the finish line to claim his first season title. May 19.

Ruth Ziolkowski, 87. She carried on her late husband's dream of honoring Native Americans by carving the massive likeness of warrior Crazy Horse into the Black Hills in South Dakota. May 21.

Wojciech Jaruzelski, 90. Communist leader who imposed harsh military rule on Poland in 1981 in an attempt to crush the pro-democracy Solidarity movement but later allowed reforms that ended up dismantling the regime. May 25.

Maya Angelou, 86. Author and poet who rose from poverty, segregation and violence to become a force on stage, screen and the printed page. May 28.

June

Ann B. Davis, 88. Emmy-winning actress who became America's best-known housekeeper as the devoted Alice Nelson of TV's "Brady Bunch." June 1.

Alexander Shulgin, 88. Respected chemist famed for dusting off a decades-old recipe for the psychedelic drug ecstasy. June 2.

Chuck Noll, 82. Hall of Fame coach who won a record four Super Bowl titles with the Pittsburgh Steelers. June 13.

Casey Kasem, 82. Radio broadcaster with a cheerful manner and gentle voice who became the king of the top 40 countdown with a syndicated show that ran for decades. June 15.

Tony Gwynn, 54. Hall of Famer whose sweet left-handed swing made him one of San Diego's best-loved athletes and earned him the nickname "Mr. Padre." June 16. Cancer.

Eli Wallach, 98. Raspy-voiced character actor who starred in dozens of movies and Broadway plays and earned film immortality as a quick-on-the-draw bandit in the classic Western "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." June 24.

July

David Greenglass, 92. He served 10 years in prison for his role in the most explosive atomic spying case of the Cold War and gave testimony that sent his brother-in-law and sister, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, to the electric chair. July 1.

Louis Zamperini, 97. Olympic distance runner who, during World War II, survived 47 days on a raft in the Pacific after his bomber crashed, then endured two years in Japanese prison camps; subject of the book and movie "Unbroken." July 2.

Tommy Ramone, 65. Co-founder of the seminal punk band the Ramones and last surviving member of the original group. July 11.

Alice Coachman Davis, 90. First black woman to win an Olympic gold medal. July 14.

Dick Smith, 92. Oscar-winning "Godfather of Makeup" who amused, fascinated and terrified moviegoers by devising unforgettable transformations for Marlon Brando in "The Godfather" and Linda Blair in "The Exorcist," among many others. July 30.

August

Chung Eun-yong, 91. Ex-policeman whose half-century quest for justice for his two slain children led the U.S. Army in 2001 to acknowledge the Korean War refugee massacre at No Gun Ri. Aug. 1.

James Brady, 73. Affable, witty press secretary who survived a devastating head wound in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan, then undertook a personal crusade for gun control. Aug. 4.

Robin Williams, 63. Academy Award winner and comic supernova whose explosions of pop culture riffs and impressions dazzled audiences for decades. Aug. 11. Apparent suicide.

Lauren Bacall, 89. Slinky, sultry-voiced actress who created on-screen magic with Humphrey Bogart in "To Have and Have Not" and "The Big Sleep" and off-screen magic in one of Hollywood's most storied marriages. Aug. 12.

Jay Adams, 53. Colorful rebel who helped transform skateboarding from a simple street pastime into one of the world's most spectacular sports. Aug. 14. Heart attack.

Richard Attenborough, 90. Actor and Oscar-winning director whose film career on both sides of the camera spanned 60 years. Aug. 24.

September

Joan Rivers, 81. Raucous, acid-tongued comedian who crashed the male-dominated realm of late-night talk shows and turned Hollywood red carpets into danger zones for badly dressed celebrities. Sept. 4. Fatal complication during a medical procedure.

S. Truett Cathy, 93. Billionaire founder of the privately held Chick-fil-A restaurant chain. Sept. 8.

James Traficant, 73. Colorful Ohio politician whose conviction for taking bribes and kickbacks made him only the second person to be expelled from Congress since the Civil War. Sept. 27.

October

Jean-Claude Duvalier, 63. He presided over what was widely acknowledged as a corrupt, brutal regime as the self-proclaimed "president for life" of Haiti until an uprising sent him into a 25-year exile. Oct. 4. Heart attack.

Oscar de la Renta, 82. Worldly gentleman designer who shaped the wardrobe of socialites, first ladies and Hollywood stars for more than four decades. Oct. 20.

Gough Whitlam, 98. Flamboyant Australian prime minister and controversial social reformer whose grip on power was cut short by a bitter constitutional crisis. Oct. 21.

Ben Bradlee, 93. Hard-charging editor who guided The Washington Post through its Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the Watergate scandal and invigorated its newsroom for more than two decades. Oct. 21.

Jack Bruce, 71. British musician best known as the bass player and vocalist of the power blues trio Cream. Oct. 25.

Thomas Menino, 71. Boston's longest-serving mayor whose mumbling and occasional bumbling belied his political ingenuity and endeared him to a city whose skyline he helped reshape. Oct. 30.

November

Tom Magliozzi, 77. He was one half of the brother duo who hosted National Public Radio's "Car Talk," where they bantered with callers and commiserated over their car problems. Nov. 3.

S. Donald Stookey, 99. He was the scientist who forever changed cooking with the invention of CorningWare, a versatile glass found in millions of American kitchens. Nov. 4.

Mike Nichols, 83. Director of matchless versatility who brought fierce wit, caustic social commentary and wicked absurdity to such film, TV and stage hits as "The Graduate," "Angels in America" and "Monty Python's Spamalot." Nov. 19.

Marion Barry, 78. Former District of Columbia mayor whose four terms were overshadowed by his 1990 arrest after being caught on videotape smoking crack cocaine. Nov. 23.

December

Herman Badillo, 85. Bronx politician who became the first person born in Puerto Rico to become a U.S. congressman. Dec. 3.

Ralph Baer, 92. Video game pioneer who created both the precursor to "Pong" and the electronic memory game Simon and led the team that developed the first home video game console. Dec. 6.

Joe Cocker, 70. Raspy-voiced British singer with a contorted performing style, known for his frenzied cover of "With a Little Help From My Friends" and the teary ballad "You Are So Beautiful." Dec. 22.

Death notices

Marie Jenkins, 95, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 21, 2014, at Royalton Manor. Dey-Florin Chapel, Florin Funeral Service, St. Joseph, 983-1514.

Births

Lakeland Regional Medical Center, St. Joseph

Benton Harbor – Boy, 5 pounds, 1.7 ounces, Hilary and Eric Bridges, 6:08 p.m. Dec. 19.

Benton Harbor – Boy, 5 pounds, 1 ounce, Monique Moore, 8:04 p.m. Dec. 20.

Coloma – Boy, 8 pounds 1 ounce, Dana Valdes and Jaysen Hosbein, 12:01 p.m. Dec. 20.

Dowagiac – Boy, 7 pounds, 14 ounces, Briana Mitchell and Zachary Hatch, 10:07 p.m. Dec. 20.

Hartford – Girl, 6 pounds, 8 ounces, Rachel Schaffer, 6:11 p.m. Dec. 17.

Hartford – Girl, 7 pounds, 15 ounces, Patricia and Jose Benavides Jr., 4:23 a.m. Dec. 20.

St. Joseph – Boy, 6 pounds, 10 ounces, Katie and Anthony Mandarino, 8:24 a.m. Dec. 23.

Sawyer – Girl, 7 pounds, 13 ounces, Brandy Morris, 7:50 p.m. Dec. 20.

South Haven – Girl, 8 pounds, 5 ounces, Tarris Partee and Calen Sanders, 12:06 a.m. Dec. 21.

South Haven – Boy, 7 pounds, 4 ounces, Renae and Justin Irish, 3:27 p.m. Dec. 22.

Stevensville – Boy, 5 pounds, 13 ounces, Chelsea Carotenuto and Matt Beebe, 2:21 a.m. Dec. 19.

Watervliet – Girl, 7 pounds, 3 ounces, Amanda Sonner and Andrew Kelly, 10:24 p.m. Dec. 18.

Diamonds among donations in Salvation Army kettles

BOSTON (AP) — In Massachusetts, it's not just the treetops that are glistening this holiday season. It's also the jewelry that's being dropped in Salvation Army's red kettles.

The charity says donors dropped wedding and engagement rings into a kettle in Weymouth, south of Boston. And a bracelet, diamond ring and diamond pendant were contributed in the central city of Fitchburg.

Both donors asked that the items be sold to help the poor and addicted.

The latest gifts come after a widow gave her wedding rings in memory of her husband, and another widow redeemed them with a gift of $21,000. Then an Australian woman who recently moved to Boston gave a diamond cross pendant.

Salvation Army Major David Davis said Wednesday that the organization is "overwhelmed by all that has taken place."

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Do you remember?

25 years ago – 1989

Vivian Cook has been named interim director of Emergency Shelter Services Inc. of Benton Harbor, a short-term emergency housing center of families and single women. Cook replaces Paul Leonard, who left the director's post after serving for fewer than five months.

The Herald-Palladium has announced that Sportsline – a daily, 24-hour telephone sports news service – will be available locally beginning Jan. 1. Regular updates will give callers the latest scores from the NBA, NFL, NHL, college basketball and college football.

35 years ago – 1979

U.S. Rep. David Stockman of St. Joseph has been selected as one of the nation's 10 Outstanding Young Men by the U.S. Jaycees. Earlier this year, Stockman, 33, was picked as "one of America's 50 future leaders" by Time magazine.

Games People Play, a new amusement center, has opened at Orchards Mall in Benton Township, according to manager James Pulls. The center has 33 machines – 11 electronic video games and 22 pinball machines.

50 years ago – 1964

A building permit was issued to Hubschman Construction Co. to add a retail sales and storage building to the lower level of the Goldblatts shore at Fairplain Plaza. Construction costs were estimated at $109,000. Finishing the lower level will allow expansion of Goldblatt's upper floor, according to company spokesmen.

Today in history

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, Dec. 25, the 359th day of 2014. There are six days left in the year. This is Christmas Day.

Highlight in history:

In A.D. 336, the first known commemoration of Christmas on Dec. 25 took place in Rome.

On this date:

In 1066, William the Conqueror was crowned king of England.

In 1776, Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey.

In 1818, "Silent Night (Stille Nacht)" was publicly performed for the first time during the Christmas Midnight Mass at the Church of St. Nikolaus in Oberndorf, Austria.

In 1868, President Andrew Johnson granted an unconditional pardon to all persons involved in the Southern rebellion that resulted in the Civil War.

In 1926, Hirohito became emperor of Japan, succeeding his father, Emperor Yoshihito.

In 1931, New York's Metropolitan Opera broadcast an entire live opera over radio for the first time: "Hansel and Gretel" by Engelbert Humperdinck.

In 1941, during World War II, Japan announced the surrender of the British-Canadian garrison at Hong Kong.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Isolated Rain	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
37º	29º	43º / 37º	40º / 27º	31º / 24º	30º / 24º

Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a slight chance of snow, high temperature of 37º, humidity of 70%. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 29º. South wind 15 to 20 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise . . . . . 8:12 a.m.
Sunset . . . . . 5:19 p.m.
Moonrise. . . . . 10:42 a.m.
Moonset . . . . . 9:57 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
12/28	1/4	1/13	1/20

Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Tuesday

Temperature

High 52º
Low. 40º
Normal High 33º
Normal Low 21º
Record High . . . . . 57º in 1982
Record Low . . . . . -15º in 1989

Precipitation

Tuesday . . . . . 0.07"
Month to date . . . . . 0.72"
Normal month to date . . . . 2.07"
Year to date . . . . . 25.83"
Normal year to date . . . . 36.40"

Air Quality

Yesterday..... 21
Main Offender.....Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

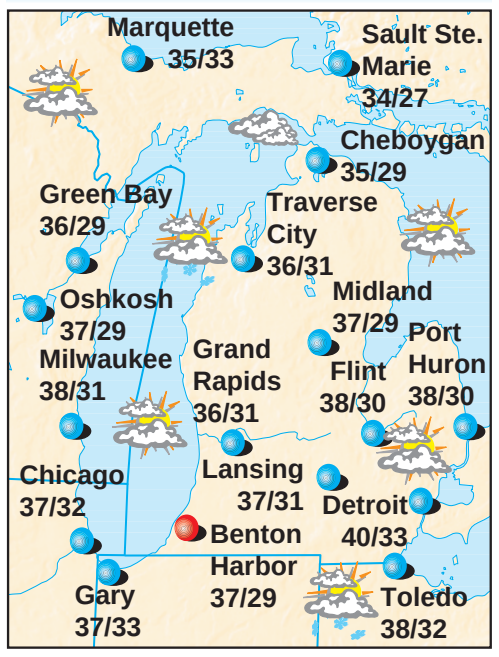
0-50.....Good
51-100.....Moderate
101-150....Sensitive
151-200..Unhealthy

Weather Trivia

What is the name of the high dense clouds that bring steady rainfall?

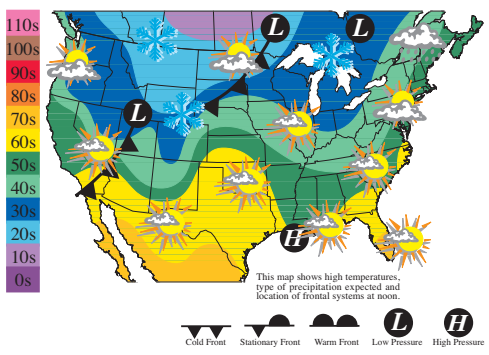
Answer: Altostratus.

Regional Map



National Weather Map

Forecast map for Dec. 25, 2014



Lake Michigan

Today, southwest winds 20 to 25 kt. Slight chance of drizzle or flurries in the morning. Waves 7 to 10 ft occasionally to 13 ft subsiding to 4 to 6 ft occasionally to 8 ft in the afternoon.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today we will see partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated snow, highs in the mid-30s. Northwest wind 10 to 20 mph. Skies will be cloudy Friday with isolated snow, highs in the mid-30s.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered snow, highs in the upper 30s. West wind 17 mph. Friday we will see partly cloudy skies with highs in the low 40s. West wind 6 to 9 mph.

Calif. road rage incident captured on cellphone camera

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A road rage incident was captured in a dramatic cellphone video that showed two women frantically trying to escape a vehicle that chased them and repeatedly tried to force their car off a mountain highway.

The two women called the California Highway Patrol on Saturday afternoon to report that they were being repeatedly cut off by the driver of a Ford Explorer Sport Trac pickup truck on I-80, about 60 miles northeast of Sacramento.

"She just hit our car. She just hit our car. She's pushing us off of the road. Yes, she's pushing us off the road. She's coming for us," passenger Delanie Strykul tells a CHP dispatcher on the video, her voice shaking. "Please help us."

The video shows the Explorer forcing their Mazda onto the shoulder as the Mazda's driver screams.

Strykul made a rude gesture "I could not believe this was real. I was sitting there going, 'This has to be a joke,'" Strykul told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The Highway Patrol said the incident began after because the Ford Explorer had been tailgating.

Strykul shot the video while also calling the Highway Patrol. They eventually were directed to an interstate exit where a highway patrolman was waiting to make the arrest.

The suspect, Orozco, 50, of Santa Clara, was charged with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, two counts of false imprisonment, unlawful use of a badge, reckless driving and resisting arrest.

Deirdre She was held in lieu of $250,000 bail and is due back in court Friday.

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hp LOCAL & STATE

Berrien Land Bank gets demolition grant

Agency receives $119,000; targets abandoned homes

By SCOTT AIKEN
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — The Berrien County Land Bank Authority has received a $119,000 state grant to continue demolishing abandoned houses in Benton Harbor.

The funding is expected to cover the cost of tearing down a dozen houses, most of them structures that were damaged by fire, said Katie Montoya, housing coordinator for the county's Community Development Department.

"This will be a one-round demolition bid for the 12," she said.

Asbestos surveys and removal will occur first, followed by demolition, possibly in March. Contractors will be selected through competitive bidding.

The Land Bank sought the grant through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2, administered by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

The Land Bank and Benton Harbor participated jointly in an earlier NSP 2 project, receiving a total of nearly $14 million to tear down 242 run-down houses, rehabilitate others and build new structures. That effort wrapped up in 2013.

The housing authority awarded grants totaling $223 million in NSP 2 money to the 12 members of consortium of communities statewide, including the Berrien County Land Bank Authority and Benton Harbor.

The funding, provided by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, is intended to help communities clean up neighborhoods and encourage new construction by eliminating blight.

The housing authority originally awarded grants totaling $223 million to 12 members of a consortium of communities around the state, including the Berrien County Land Bank and Benton Harbor.

The latest grant funding awarded to the Land Bank is program funding, money that was returned to MSHDA as the result of sale or rent of real estate or for other reasons. MSHDA allowed communities that had participated in the consortium to apply.

The county Board of Commissioners approved the grant agreement earlier this month.

The county is also seeking up to $1.7 million in state grant funding to demolish run-down and abandoned buildings in Benton Harbor, among them the former Mercy Center.

The county board approved an application for the NSP 2 funding in October. The county has not been notified whether or not the grant has been approved.

Contact: saiken@TheHP.com. (269) 032-0358. Twitter: @HPAiken

Photos by Louise Wrege / HP staff

Aliya Lopez, 2, of Benton Heights finds a bus she likes at the second annual toy giveaway at D&D Trading Post in Benton Harbor on Wednesday. She is the daughter of Samantha Lopez.

The spirit moved them

Children both gave and received toys during BH store's annual giveaway

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — The Christmas spirit was alive and well Wednesday at D&D Trading Post's annual toy giveaway.

Most children received free toys from the Benton Harbor pawn shop. But two boys dropped off a laundry basket full of their unwanted toys instead.

"We came here because we have a lot more (toys) than we need," said Gabrial Pawlosky, 13, of Benton Harbor. "It's nice to give stuff away to people who are in need."

His 9-year-old brother, Nathan VanBuskirk, agreed.

"It's nice to give toys away, and to be nice," he said.

The toys they dropped off included several Nerf toys, puzzles, stuffed animals and a Star Wars costume.

Their mother, Jennifer VanBuskirk, didn't know about the toy giveaway until she saw the sign while driving by.

William Helton Jr. (known to many as "Little Bill") of D&D Trading Post in Benton Harbor straightens the toys on Wednesday.

"If I had known, we could have given away even more toys."

VanBuskirk vowed next year to help collect toys through her massage therapy business, Blessed Kneads in Berrien Springs.

William "Little Bill" Helton Jr., who helps his father run the trading post, said he gave away almost 300 toys during the first hour of the giveaway. This year he also gave away wrapping paper.

"One guy – he had eight kids," he said. "He took about four toys per kid and some wrapping paper."

Helton said he has been giving away toys throughout the year to the children of customers for 20 years.

Store employee Charlie Grammel said giving the children a little toy keeps them occupied while their parents shop.

"If it's a boy, he gets a car. If it's a girl, it's usually a stuffed animal, but sometimes they want cars, too," he said.

This was the second year of the giveaway program.

Helton said that God willing, the store will hold an even bigger toy giveaway next year for Christmas.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

IN BRIEF

Accident victim in critical condition

ST. JOSEPH — An 80-year-old St. Joseph Township woman remained in critical condition Wednesday following an accident that left her trapped between a car and a neighbor's garage.

Nancy Worthington, of Chateau Condominiums, 2727 S. Lakeshore Drive, was being treated at Memorial Hospital in South Bend.

She was injured Tuesday afternoon when she was ejected from a car driven by her husband, Charles Worthington, 80, as he backed out of their garage, according to St. Joseph Township police.

Police said it appears that Charles Worthington accelerated as he backed out before his wife shut the car door. The car door struck the garage, causing the vehicle to spin around and eject Nancy Worthington, officers said.

Nancy Worthington became pinned between the car and the neighbor's garage nearby.

Police: Woman stole car, found with drugs

HARTFORD — Police found drugs in a stolen car in Hartford Township early Monday, Van Buren County Sheriff's Sgt. Ron Douglas said.

Police found two people inside the 2001 Ford Mustang convertible that was stalled on County Road 372 around 1:30 a.m., and determined the car had been stolen from the Gobles area.

Heroin, prescription narcotics and marijuana was in the car. A Hartford area woman, 29, was arrested on several charges after the car owner said she had stolen the car.

Site approved for new ag history museum

BLISSFIELD (AP) — A former canning company site in southeastern Michigan has been selected as the future home of an agricultural history museum.

The Daily Telegram of Adrian reported that the Blissfield Village Council approved leasing land to the Agricultural Awareness & Preservation Museum board of directors.

The deal includes an option to buy the property for $225,000. The council approved the measure Monday by a 7-0 vote.

Museum board member Frank Baker said the group can begin to complete the strategic plan for the museum, which will educate the public on the history and importance of agriculture. They hope to raise about $8 million for construction and to buy more property to host agriculture-related events.

Fundraising is to continue throughout next year. A groundbreaking could be held in late 2015. Officials are targeting 2017 for the museum's opening.

Robbery a link to the shooting of 4 teens

DETROIT (AP) — Police say the shooting of four teenagers in Detroit may have been a robbery "gone bad."

A 16-year-old girl from Grosse Pointe Woods was killed and three others were injured Monday night on Detroit's east side. A parked car full of suburban teens was repeatedly shot by a man in an out-of-the-way neighborhood.

Detroit police spokesman Adam Madera said detectives are "working under the impression it was a robbery gone bad." He said investigators Wednesday have a better understanding of what happened after interviewing the victims.

One teen remains in the hospital. Paige Stalker was killed. She was a top student at University Liggett School, a private high school in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Enbridge oil spill settlement is $6.25M

BATTLE CREEK (AP) — A settlement over a 2010 oil spill in southwestern Michigan is worth $6.25 million, not $6.75 million as lawyers reported earlier in December.

A new filing has been made in Grand Rapids federal court. Judge Gordon Quist still must approve the deal between a Canadian company and residents and land owners near the Kalamazoo River.

The size of payments will depend on proximity to the water.

A pipeline leak spewed more than 800,000 gallons of crude oil into the Kalamazoo River and Talmadge Creek. The pipeline belongs to Enbridge Inc., based in Calgary, Alberta.

Dept. of Ag grant bolsters seasonal housing complex

By ANDREW LERSTEN
HP Staff Writer

KEELER — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is helping to fund a $1.33 million expansion and renovation project at a farm workers' apartment complex in rural Keeler Township.

An entourage of a dozen or so USDA officials and guests this month toured the Sunrise Apartments on 84th Avenue to get a firsthand look at the work being done there.

"The paint was still fresh. They were taking out doors and putting in doors," said USDA spokesman Alex Lloyd.

There are 22 apartments at the complex. Gardner Management landed a $1.208 million USDA grant and $134,292 loan to extensively upgrade the apartments, and to add two more apartments, Lloyds said.

The work is being done now because the apartments are not open in the winter. They are for farm workers who live there during the growing and harvesting seasons.

Among those visiting last week were USDA Rural Housing Administrator Tony Hernandez and USDA Rural Development State Director James J. Turner.

"We were there about an hour," Lloyd said. "We walked through a few different units to see how the progress is going. It looks like a new facility."

The project is funded through the USDA's Farm Labor Housing program.

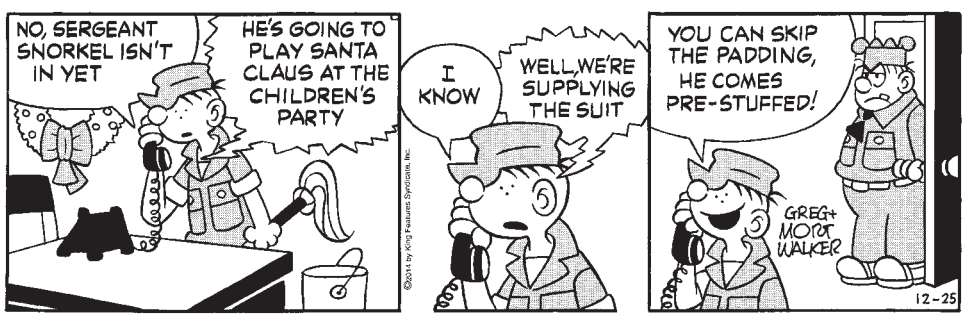
The USDA entourage also visited USDA-funded projects in Allegan and Clinton Counties on the Dec. 11 tour.

Contact: alersten@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter @HPLersten

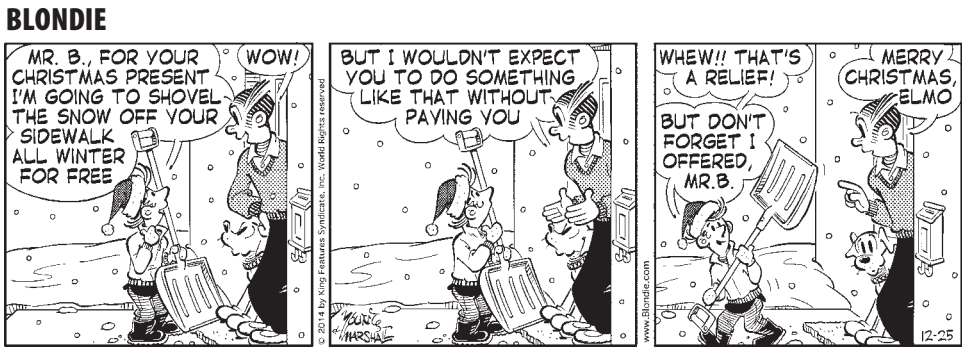
Andrew Lersten / HP staff

These are a couple of the apartment buildings at Sunrise Apartments on 84th Avenue in Keeler Township. USDA officials toured the facility earlier this month, checking progress on a $1.34 million renovation project funded with the help of the USDA.

BEETLE BAILEY


NO, SERGEANT SNORKEL ISN'T IN YET
HE'S GOING TO PLAY SANTA CLAUS AT THE CHILDREN'S PARTY
I KNOW
WELL, WE'RE SUPPLYING THE SUIT
YOU CAN SKIP THE PADDING, HE COMES PRE-STUFFED!
GREG+ MORT WALKER
12-25

BLONDIE


MR. B., FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT I'M GOING TO SHOVEL THE SNOW OFF YOUR SIDEWALK ALL WINTER FOR FREE
WOW!
BUT I WOULDN'T EXPECT YOU TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT WITHOUT PAYING YOU
WHEW!! THAT'S A RELIEF!
BUT DON'T FORGET I OFFERED, MR.B.
MERRY CHRISTMAS, ELMO
12-25

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

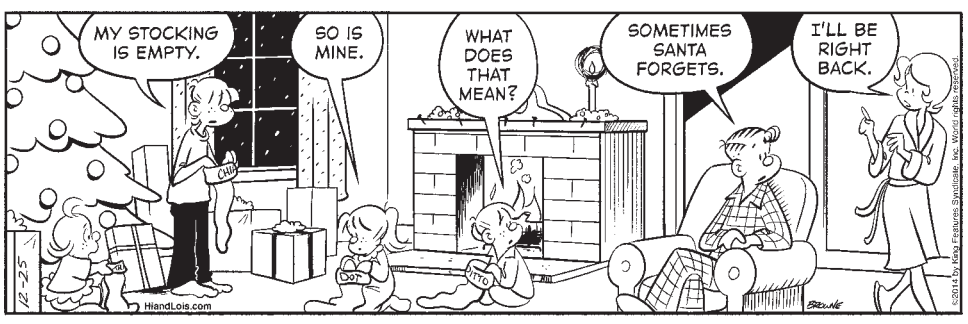
By Bil Keane

"Look, Daddy! Santa Claus DID come to town!"

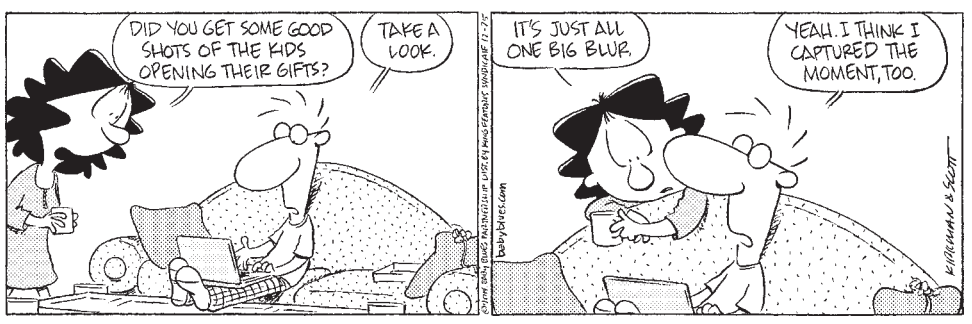
DENNIS THE MENACE

"SANTA KNOWS WHEN I'M AWAKE, SO I THOUGHT YOU WOULD WANT TO KNOW, TOO."

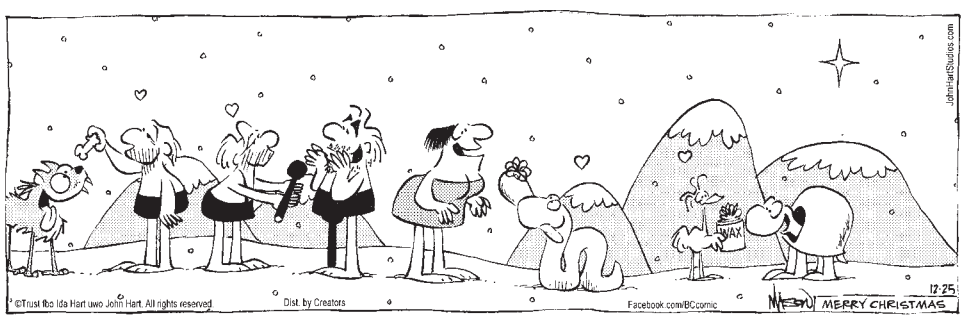
HI & LOIS



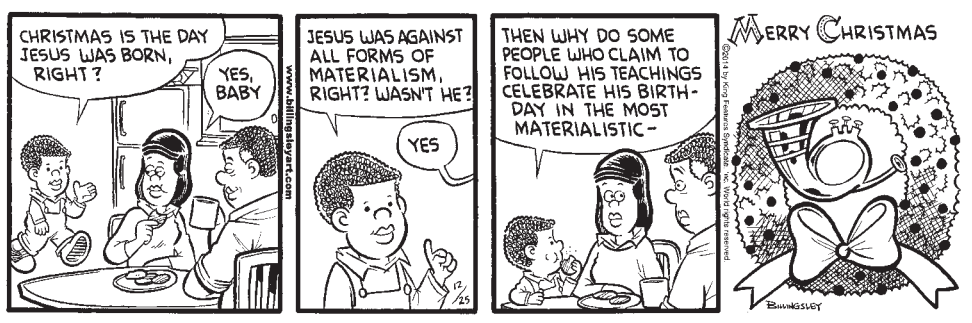
BABY BLUES


DID YOU GET SOME GOOD SHOTS OF THE KIDS OPENING THEIR GIFTS?
TAKE A LOOK.
IT'S JUST ALL ONE BIG BLUR.
YEAH. I THINK I CAPTURED THE MOMENT, TOO.
babyblues.com

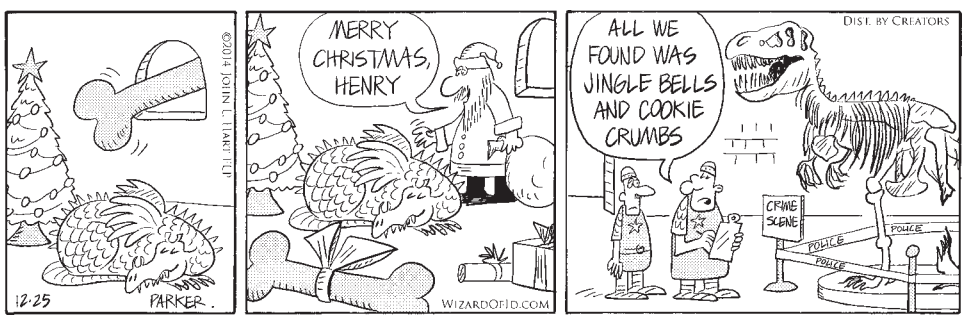
BC



CURTIS


CHRISTMAS IS THE DAY JESUS WAS BORN, RIGHT?
YES, BABY
JESUS WAS AGAINST ALL FORMS OF MATERIALISM, RIGHT? WASN'T HE?
YES
THEN WHY DO SOME PEOPLE WHO CLAIM TO FOLLOW HIS TEACHINGS CELEBRATE HIS BIRTHDAY IN THE MOST MATERIALISTIC-
MERRY CHRISTMAS
www.billinglevyart.com

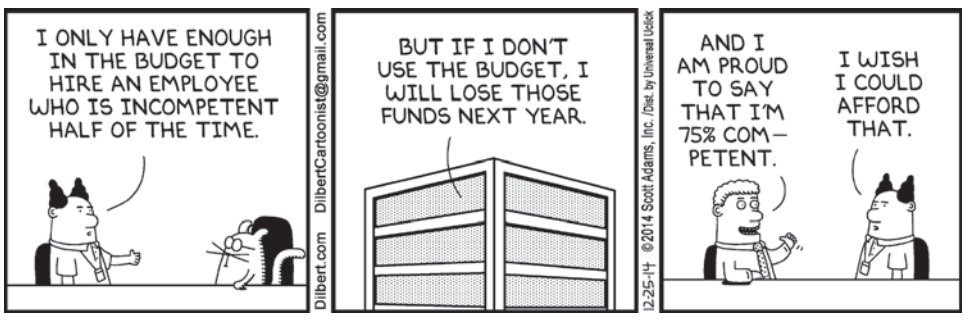
WIZARD OF ID



ZITS

A GIBSON LES PAUL STANDARD WITH COMPOUND RADIUS FINGERBOARD IN HERITAGE CHERRY!
PINCH ME! I MUST BE DREAMING!
OKAY... UN-PINCH ME.
DO YOU LIKE THEM?
SCOTT & BRAD BOHGMAN
zitscomics.com

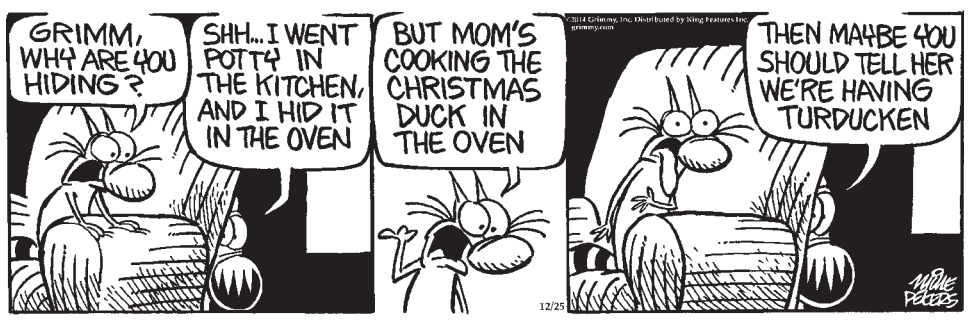
DILBERT


I ONLY HAVE ENOUGH IN THE BUDGET TO HIRE AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS INCOMPETENT HALF OF THE TIME.
BUT IF I DON'T USE THE BUDGET, I WILL LOSE THOSE FUNDS NEXT YEAR.
AND I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT I'M 75% COMPETENT.
I WISH I COULD AFFORD THAT.
Dilbert.com DilbertCartoonist@gmail.com
12-25-14 ©2014 Scott Adams, Inc. /Dist. by Universal Uclick

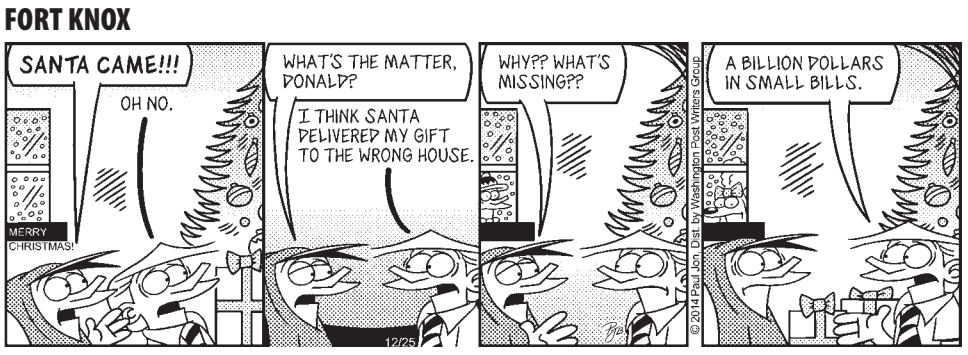
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

GARFIELD

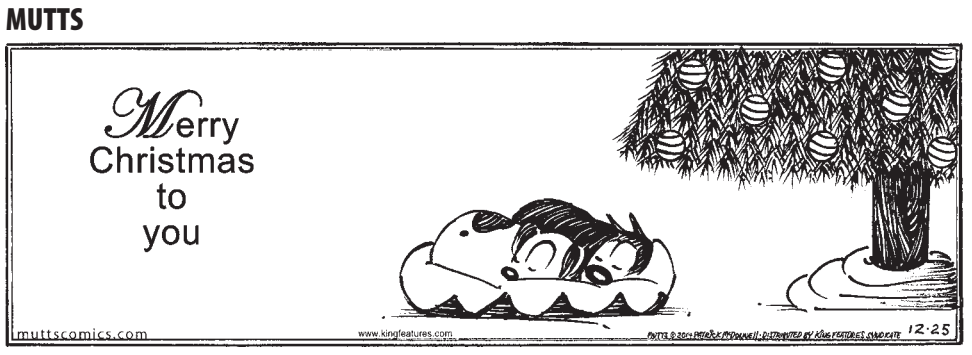
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM


GRIMM, WHY ARE YOU HIDING?
SHH... I WENT POTTY IN THE KITCHEN, AND I HID IT IN THE OVEN
BUT MOM'S COOKING THE CHRISTMAS DUCK IN THE OVEN
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL HER WE'RE HAVING TURDUCKEN
12/25
MICHAEL PETERS

FORT KNOX



MUTTS



PICKLES

A NECKLACE! OH, IT'S BEAUTIFUL! THANK YOU!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
I BOUGHT SOMETHING FOR YOU TOO. YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE IT!
GREAT! I CAN'T WAIT TO OPEN IT.
WELL, THAT'S THE THING... I BOUGHT IT MONTHS AGO AND HID IT IN A SAFE PLACE...
AND WHEN I FIND IT AGAIN, YOU ARE REALLY GOING TO LOVE IT!
12/25

SALLY FORTH

IT'S CHRISTMAS!
IT'S CHRISTMAS!
IT'S CHRISTMAS!!!
12-25
DESPITE IT BEING ONLY 5 A.M., I'M HAPPY HIL STILL GETS SO EXCITED ABOUT CHRISTMAS.
I THINK I HEAR HER OUTSIDE TELLING THE NEIGHBORS.

Get Outdoors!
Look for our weekly Outdoors Section every Friday in
The Herald-Palladium

Prime Time TV

THURSDAY EVENING DEC. 25

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	NBA Post-game	The Grinch	📽 ★★ Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas ('00, Fantasy) Jim Carrey, Jeffrey Tambor.				
CBS 2 3 22	Entertain-ment Ton.	Big Bang Theory	:31 Mom CC	Two and Half Men	McCarthys	Elementary "On the Line" CC	
NBC 5 8 16	Access Hollyw'd	How Murray Saved Christmas CC		Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas CC		Christmas in Rock-efeller Center CC	
FOX 17 28 32	Modern Family	Bones The team works to find who framed Booth. (PA) CC (DVS)				Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Steves' Europe	Call the Midwife Holiday Special (N) CC			:20 Vicious (N)	Christmas With the Mormon Tabernacle	
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	📽 The 12 Dogs of Christmas ('05) John Billing-sley, Bonita Friedericy.				News	Seinfeld CC
MNT 50	Family Feud	The Mentalist "The Scarlet Letter" CC		The Mentalist Lisbon is accused of murder.		Big Bang Theory	The Simp-sons
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	House of Payne	House of Payne	We There Yet?	We There Yet?	Family Guy	Raising Hope
WHME 46	M*A*S*H CC	Lester Sumrall	American Christmas	The Harvest Show News and music.		Paid Program	Joyce Meyer
WSBT 22	Jeopardy! (N) CC	ES.TV CC	ES.TV CC	Dr. Phil CC		News	Dish Na-tion (N)
A&E	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty CC		Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty CC		:31 Duck Dynasty
AMC	5:30 📽 ★★★ The Cowboys ('72)		📽 ★★★ True Grit ('69) John Wayne. A one-eyed marshal and a Texas Ranger aid a vengeful teen. CC				
Animal	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman
BET	:00 📽 ★★ Lottery Ticket ('10) Bow Wow. CC					Chris Rock: Pain	
Big Ten	Big Ten	Unbeaten: Berringer		BTN Live		B1G Football in 60	
Bravo	:00 📽 ★★ Bee Movie ('07) Voices of Jerry Seinfeld.			📽 ★★★ Dirty Dancing ('87, Romance) Jennifer Grey, Patrick Swayze.			
Cartoon	Regular	King/Hill	King/Hill	Cleveland	Cleveland	American	American
Cinemax	We're the Millers	📽 ★★★ Meet the Parents ('00, Comedy) Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller. CC				📽 ★ Walk of Shame ('14) CC	
CMT	2014 CMT	George Strait: The Cowboy Rides Away				A Christmas Story 2	
CNBC	Shark	Shark Tank CC		Shark Tank CC		Shark Tank CC	
CNN	Anthony	Anthony Bourd.		Anthony Bourd.		Anthony Bourd.	
Comedy	Jeff Dun	📽 ★★★ Hot Tub Time Machine ('10)				Hot Tub Mach.	
CSNC	Sports	Bears Classic		5 Outs: 2003 Chicago Cubs			Insd.
Discovery	Monster Hammer	Lair of the Mega Shark CC		Shark of Darkness: Wrath of Submarine A white shark terrorizes beach-goers. CC			
Disney	Jessie	Girl	Dog	Liv-Mad.	I Didn't	Girl	Dog
DIY	Holmes	Holmes Makes		Holmes Makes		Holmes Makes	
E!	Maid	📽 ★★ Evan Almighty ('07) Steve Carell.				Take the Hamptons	
Encore	★★ Fire in the Sky	📽 ★★★★ The Shawshank Redemption ('94, Drama) Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman. iTV. CC					White House
ESPN	SportCtr	30 for 30 (N)					
ESPN2	College Basketball		College Basketball				
ESPNC	Nine/IX	Nine for IX CC		Nine for IX CC		Nine for IX CC	
Family	:00 📽 ★★★ Elf ('03, Comedy) Will Ferrell, James Caan.			📽 ★★★ Home Alone ('90, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern.			
Food	Chopped	Diners, Drive		Diners, Drive		Beat Flay	Beat Flay
Fox News	Record	The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File (N)		Hannity (N)	
Fox Sports	Football	High School Football				High School Football	
FX	:00 📽 ★★★ Kung Fu Panda 2 ('11) Voices of Jack Black.			📽 ★★ Shrek Forever After ('10, Comedy) Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy.			
G4	Soup	Soup	Soup	Science	Science	Science	Science
Golf	:00 Payne	Arnie		Arnie		Arnie	
Hallmark	📽 Christmas at Cartwright's ('14) Alicia Witt, Gabriel Hogan.			📽 Christmas Under Wraps ('14) Candace Cameron Bure.			A Royal Christmas
HBO	Percy Jackson	📽 ★★ Now You See Me ('13, Comedy-Drama) Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo. CC				📽 ★★ 47 Ronin ('13) Keanu Reeves.	
History	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn Stars CC	
HGTV	Tiny	Rehab	Rehab	Rehab	Rehab	Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	90 Day	90 Day Fiance CC		90 Day Fiance CC		90 Day Fiance CC	
Lifetime	All She	📽 12 Men of Christmas ('09) CC				📽 The Santa Con	
MSNBC	Hardball	All In With Chris		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Bad	📽 ★ Friday After Next ('02) Ice Cube.				📽 Bad Santa ('03)	
NFL	NFL Total	Undrafted	Undrafted	Undrafted	Undrafted	Undrafted	Undrafted
Nick	Nicky	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Prince	Prince
NGEO	Brain	Brain	Brain	Brain	Brain	Brain	Brain
Oxygen	:25 Bad Girls Club: Redemption		BGC: Re-demption	:15 Bad Girls Club: Redemption		:10 Bad Girls Club: Redemption	
Showtime	:45 📽 ★★★ Lee Daniels' The Butler ('13, Historical Drama) Forest Whitaker, Oprah Winfrey. CC					Homeland Carrie and Saul investigate.	
Spike	6:00 📽 ★★★ Troy ('04) Brad Pitt, Eric Bana.					X2: X-Men United	
Starz	:05 Out-lander	:05 Outlander (iTV) CC		:05 Outlander "The Wedding" (iTV)		:05 Outlander "Both Sides Now" (iTV)	
SyFy	:00 📽 ★★ Snowmageddon ('11) Michael Hogan.			📽 Christmas Icetastrophe ('14, Science Fic-tion) Victor Webster, Jennifer Spence.			
TBS	A Christ-mas Story	Family Guy	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory
TCM	Love-A. Hardy	📽 ★★ High Anxiety ('77, Comedy) Mel Brooks, Madeline Kahn. CC				📽 ★★★ Silent Movie ('76) CC	
TMC	The Impossible	📽 ★★ The Longest Yard ('05, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Chris Rock. CC				📽 ★ Alex Cross ('12) Tyler Perry. CC	
TNT	Christmas	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Chicago Bulls.					Basket
Travel	Bizarre	Bizarre Foods		No Reservation		Booze Traveler	
TV Land	Barbara Walters		Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King
USA	:00 📽 ★ Little Fockers ('10) Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller.			📽 ★★★ Bridesmaids ('11, Comedy) Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne.			
VH1	HappyGil	📽 ★★★ The Blues Brothers ('80) John Belushi. CC					
WGN-A	Funny Videos	America's Funniest Home Videos CC		America's Funniest Home Videos CC		America's Funniest Home Videos CC	

Fibroid treatment depends on symptoms

DEAR DOCTOR K: I saw my doctor because of pain in my pelvis and heavy menstrual bleeding. Tests showed that I have fibroids. What are fibroids and how are they treated?

DEAR READER: A fibroid is a lump or growth in the uterus that is not cancerous. Fibroids can be as small as a pea or as large as a basketball. They are usually round and pinkish in color, and they can grow anywhere inside or on the uterus. The number of fibroids, their size and how fast they grow varies from one woman to another. (I've put an illustration of fibroids on my website, AskDoctorK.com.)

Female hormones encourage fibroids to grow. Fibroids continue growing until menopause, when production of female hormones drops off.

Often, fibroids cause no symptoms. A woman may not realize that she has a fibroid until her gynecologist feels it during a pelvic exam. When symptoms do occur, they can include pain and heavy menstrual bleeding, abdominal swelling, infertility and repeated miscarriages.

If fibroids are small and are not causing any symptoms, they do not need to be treated. You may need regular pelvic exams to make sure your fibroids are not growing rapidly. If your doctor thinks a fibroid is growing so rapidly that it may soon cause symptoms, he or she may prescribe medications to temporarily shrink it. In addition, in rare cases, about one woman in every 50,000 will have a cancer in the uterus that at first is diagnosed as a fibroid.

Dr. Anthony Komaroff

Your fibroids may need to be removed if they cause significant symptoms, interfere with your fertility, or if your doctor cannot determine whether they are fibroids or cancer. There are several options for removing fibroids:

■ Myomectomy. In this surgical procedure, fibroids are cut out of the uterine wall. This surgery may be done through small incisions or a larger incision in the lower abdomen, depending on the number and size of the fibroids. Myomectomy allows a woman to keep her uterus in case she wants to have children.

■ Hysteroscopic resection. A viewing instrument called a hysteroscope is inserted into the uterus through the vagina. Surgical instruments attached to the hysteroscope remove fibroids from the uterus.

■ Uterine artery embolization. Material is injected into specific blood vessels to stop blood flow to a fibroid or fibroids. Without blood, the fibroids shrink.

New fibroids can appear any time before you enter menopause after any of these procedures.

■ Hysterectomy. The uterus is removed, along with the fibroids within it. This procedure may be the best option if fibroids are numerous or large, and causing bothersome symptoms that are not responding to treatment. Obviously, a woman who still wants to be able to have children should not have a hysterectomy. Fibroids cannot grow back after a hysterectomy.

Fibroids are more likely to occur in women who are African-American; started menstruating before the age of 10; have had fewer than two pregnancies; eat lots of red meat; or who have vitamin D deficiency (as indicated by a blood test).

Dr. Komaroff is a physician and professor at Harvard Medical School. To send questions, go to AskDoctorK.com, or write: Ask Doctor K, 10 Shattuck St., Second Floor, Boston, MA 02115.

Wife who can't make up her mind is driving husband away

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for more than 10 years and have two children. My wife has a hard time making decisions, which has resulted in some issues such as hoarding, never having gotten a living room set, not replacing old carpets (which is causing potential health issues), not buying a new car or painting the house.

She is always saying, "I'll decide tomorrow, next week, etc.," but it never happens. She refuses to accept that she has a problem and seek help. I'm ready to give up on her, but I'm worried for the children. What should I do and where can she find help? – Can't Make A Decision

DEAR CAN'T MAKE A DECISION: Give your wife a deadline by which to make a decision about the deferred "projects," then make the decision for the both of you. Your wife can find help by asking her doctor for a referral to a licensed mental health provider, but it won't happen until she is willing to admit to herself that she needs it and finally decides to deal with her indecisiveness.

DEAR ABBY: My mother and I haven't spoken in five years. She didn't go to my wedding, nor has she met my children. I want to make up with her and the family, but our argument is not the reason preventing me from reaching out. It's my stepfather.

He has been my dad since I was 5. When I was a teen, he got caught "peeping" at me inappropriately. When my brother discovered it, they got into an altercation. The whole family knows about it, but my mother took no action other than blaming me and telling me to be more careful.

Jeanne Phillips

Dear Abby

Now, with my own daughter, I worry it could happen to her one day. I miss my family, but am I better off leaving things how they are and remaining strangers? – Estranged in California

DEAR ESTRANGED: Yes, because you know your stepfather is a peeping Tom – which has been known to escalate – and your mother was willing to tolerate it rather than insist on his getting the help he needed.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are retired and can schedule our lives pretty much as we like. However, one thing we disagree on is the scheduling of meals. Formerly, we ate at 7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. Now my husband wants to eat lunch at 10:30 and dinner at 4 o'clock. It's making me crazy! Pretty soon we'll be eating breakfast the night before.

I have tried talking to him about this, but it makes no difference. Since he does most of the cooking, he just goes ahead on his own schedule. I married him "for better or worse," but not for "brunch"! Help, please. – Annoyed in Virginia

DEAR ANNOYED: I think much depends upon why your husband has changed the schedule. Has he told you why?

If it's health-related, accommodate him. If you're not ready to eat when he needs to, have him put some food aside for you to reheat and eat later – or prepare your own meals.

DEAR READERS: I wish each and every one of you a joyous and meaningful holiday. Merry Christmas, everyone. Love, Abby

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Crossword

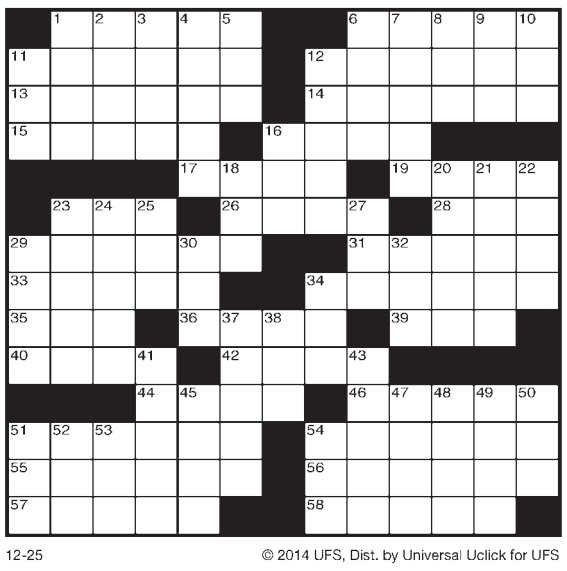
ACROSS
1 Played for stakes
6 Parish priest
11 "— Butterfly"
12 Tend the aquarium
13 Makes happy
14 Greased the palm of
15 Weaker, as an excuse
16 Puts up alfalfa
17 Edible tubers
19 Circus prop
23 — DeLuise
26 Jingle
28 Rural elec. provider
29 "The Magic Flute" composer
31 Movie with a posse
33 Piano key
34 Aptitude
35 Rec room
36 NFL broadcaster
39 Tax org.
40 Shrink's reply (2 wds.)
42 Prince William's wife
44 Cheshire Cat, finally
46 Alcove
51 L.A. baseballer
54 Came next
55 Use a compass
56 Ballroom numbers
57 High-rise unit
58 Stage platform

DOWN
1 Posh party
2 Eve's partner
3 Jane, to Tarzan
4 Abrasive mineral
5 — Moines
6 Exceedingly
7 Gaelic people
8 Urban transport
9 Wolfed down
10 Blushing
11 Cartoon voice — Blanc
12 Humiliate
16 Med. plan
18 Classified wd.
20 Web-footed mammal
21 Pizzerias' needs
22 Auditioner's goal
23 Cote dwellers
24 UV blocker
25 Damage
27 Extinct bird
29 Calf-length
30 Deli loaf
32 Rope-a-dope boxer
34 Explosive letters
37 Avoid
38 Prospect for gold
41 Urged on
43 The blahs
45 Vegas rival
47 Dogmas
48 Rubik's —
49 Get news of
50 Publishing execs
51 — Holliday
52 El Dorado loot
53 Tumult
54 Blunder

Answer to Previous Puzzle

	B	O	R	E			M	A	R	R	Y	
R	A	V	E	L	S		C	A	R	E	E	R
O	R	A	C	L	E		A	L	I	E	N	S
I	D	L	E		R	N	S		D	D	T	
			P	L	E	A	T	S				
F	A	C	T	O		B	E	E	T	L	E	
A	L	L	I	N			Q	U	A	R	T	
N	A	I	V	E			U	N	D	I	D	
	S	P	E	L	L	S		E	A	S	E	S
			Y	O	K	E	L	S				
	K	E	A		L	I	L		A	B	C	S
R	A	S	C	A	L		S	E	L	L	E	R
U	T	T	E	R	S		A	G	A	V	E	S
T	O	A	S	T			O	D	D	S		

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com



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Jumble

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RAWEF

DATPA

HOYLUR

CAZIOD

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

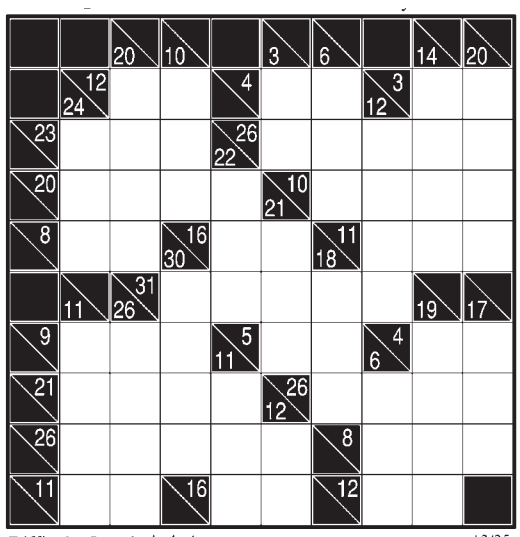
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " - "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: IMPEL PURGE TRUDGE FIASCO
Answer: When they added ornaments to the Christmas tree, they — SPRUCED IT UP

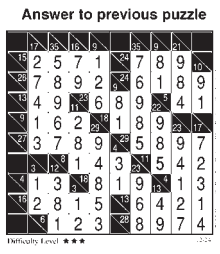
Kakuro



Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/25

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.

Answer to previous puzzle



Bridge

First of all, I wish all of my readers a very happy holiday season. The gifts have been opened, and the children or grandchildren are playing with their new toys. So now you have time to enter this year's Christmas Competition. Ignore the given East-West hands; they will change in the column of Jan. 23, 2015, when the answers to questions one and two will be given. The other answers will be on Jan. 24, and the winners announced on March 21.

■ How should South plan the play in seven spades after West leads the heart jack? Trumps are 1-1.

■ With South the dealer and the opponents silent, suggest an auction.

■ Look at only the South hand. You open one spade. With the opponents silent, what would you rebid after partner responds (a) one no-trump; (b) two clubs; (c) two diamonds; (d) three spades (game-invitational limit raise); (e) four clubs, a splinter bid showing at least four-card spade support and game-going values with a singleton or void in clubs; (f) four spades (a weak freak)?

■ Look at only the West hand. What would you respond after partner opens (a) one diamond; (b) one heart; (c) three hearts; given that South always passes?

■ Look at only the East hand. North opens one no-trump, and South raises to three no-trump. What would you lead?

North 12-25-14
♠ Q 10 9 8
♥ A K Q
♦ A Q
♣ 7 5 4 2

West
♠ 4
♥ J 10 9 7 4
♦ K 8 7 5 2
♣ 10 8

East
♠ 7
♥ 8 6 5 3 2
♦ J 10 9 6
♣ K J 9

South
♠ A K J 6 5 3 2
♥ --
♦ 4 3
♣ A Q 6 3

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
7♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ J

Mail your entry to Phillip Alder, c/o Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut Street, Kansas City, MO 64106 to arrive by Jan. 20. Or e-mail it from www.phillipalderbridge.com. Click on the Contact button and type out your answers.

Sudoku

Difficulty: 4 (of 5)

9	4	1						3
2		8	4	5				
			7	3		6		
		7		6				1
	1						9	
				2	3		7	
5			1				6	
	8				7	9	5	

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

8	7	2	4	3	6	9	1	5
5	9	3	1	7	8	2	6	4
4	1	6	5	9	2	7	8	3
1	3	5	6	2	9	4	7	8
9	8	7	3	5	4	1	2	6
2	6	4	7	8	1	5	3	9
3	4	8	9	1	7	6	5	2
6	5	1	2	4	3	8	9	7
7	2	9	8	6	5	3	4	1

Siemans In Bridgman

CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE RAM

BIG FINISH 2014

COMMERCIAL TRUCK SEASON

GET YOUR BUSINESS TAX DEDUCTIONS BY DECEMBER 31, 2014.

2014 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE

Billet Silver Metallic, 9 Amplified Speakers, Touch Screen Display, Satellite Radio, and Much More! C4-205

MSRP	$26,580
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 1,585
REBATE	- 1,500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
GREAT LAKES BONUS CASH*	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$22,495
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $20,995

(MUST QUALIFY/RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2014 RAM 2500 PROMASTER CARGO VAN DEMO

Deep Cherry Red, Speed Control, 16 Inch Aluminum Wheels, Rear Door Glass, Power Folding Heated Mirrors, Premium Appearance Group, Interior Convenience Group, and Much More! C4-105

MSRP	$33,825
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 3,580
REBATE	- 750
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
ON THE JOB BONUS CASH*	- 500
COMMERICAL BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$27,495
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $25,995

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2014 JEEP CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK 4X4

Brilliant Black Crystal, Leather Interior, V6 Engine, Trailer Tow Group, Navigation, Heated Front Seats, Power Lift Gate, Touch Screen Display, Adaptive Cruise Control, 9 Amplified Speakers, Remote Start, Heated Steering Wheel, Dual Pane Panoramic Sunroof, and Much More! C4-519

MSRP	$41,045
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 3,050
REBATE	- 500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$36,495
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $34,995

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2014 RAM PROMASTER 3500 159" WHEELBASE

Bright White, 3.0 Diesel, Cloth Seats, Interior Convenience Group, Cargo Convenience Group, Power Folding/Heated Mirrors, Speed Control, Back-Up Camera, Rear Park Assist, Touch Screen Radio, and Much More! C4-761

MSRP	$42,430
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 3,435
REBATE	- 750
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
ON THE JOB BONUS CASH*	- 500
COMMERCIAL BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$36,245
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $34,745

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2014 CHRYSLER 300 ALL WHEEL DRIVE

Jazz Blue Pearl, Leather Interior, Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, Navigation System, Heated Front Seats, Remote Start, and Much More! C4-756

LEASE FOR ONLY $219 PER MONTH*

27 MONTH LEASE WITH APPROVED CREDIT, 10,000 MILES PER YEAR, $2,200 DUE AT SIGNING, PLUS 1ST PAYMENT, TAX, TITLE, DOC FEE, PLATE FEE, SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED, RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT, OFFER EXPIRES 01/02/15

2014 RAM 2500 SLT CREW CAB 4X4

Omaha Orange, 6.7 Cummins Diesel, 6-Speed Automatic, Chrome Tubular Side Steps, Touch Screen radio, Rear Park Assist, Back-Up Camera, BIG HORN Package, and Much More! C4-659

MSRP	$55,470
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 5,475
REBATE	- 3,500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$45,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $44,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2014 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE SUMMIT 4X4 DEMO

Bright White, 5.7 Hemi V-8 Engine, Rear Seat Blu-Ray Entertainment Center, Navigation, Sirius Travel Link, Touch Screen, 20 Inch Aluminum Polished Wheels, Heated/Cooled Seats, Dual Pane Panoramic Sunroof, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Back-Up Camera, Selec-Terrain System, Adaptive Cruise Control, 19 Speakers, Forward Collision Warning Plus, Power Lift Gate, and Much More! C4-511

MSRP	$57,880
DEMO DISCOUNT	- 5,385
REBATE	- 2,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$49,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $48,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2014 DODGE DART GT

Redline Pearl, Remote Start, Power Sunroof, 506 Watt Amplifier, Satellite Radio, 18 Inch Hyper Black Aluminum Wheels, Touch Screen Display, Heated Steering Wheel, Back-Up Camera, 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, Leather Interior, and Much More! C4-730

MSRP	$24,630
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 1,435
REBATE	- 2,750
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$19,945
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE RETAIL LOYALTY CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $18,445

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2014 JEEP PATRIOT LATITUDE

Billet Silver Metallic, 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, Satellite Radio, Remote Start System, 2.4L 4 Cylinder Engine, Keyless Entry, Fog Lamps, 17 Inch Aluminum Wheels, Heated Front Seats, and Much More! C4-538

MSRP	$23,865
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 1,620
REBATE	- 1,750
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 500
Big Finish Bonus Cash	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$19,495
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $17,995

(*MUST QUALIFY/RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2014 DODGE CHALLENGER 100TH ANNIVERSARY PACKAGE

High Octane Red Pearl Coat, Nappa Leather Interior, Navigation, Heated Front Seats, Touch Screen Display, Satellite Radio, 20 Inch Granite Crystal Wheels, Remote Start, and Much More! C4-555

MSRP	$33,135
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,140
REBATE	- 1,500
BONUS CASH	- 1,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$27,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $26,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2014 RAM 1500 SPORT 4X4

Blue Streak Pearl, Bucket Seats, Floor Shifter, 5.7 Hemi V8, 8-Speed Transmission, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, Receiver Hitch, 20 Inch Wheels, Remote Start, Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Touch Screen, Back-Up Camera, and Much More! C4-562

MSRP	$39,975
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 3,500
REBATE	- 1,500
TRUCK RETAIL BONUS CASH	- 1,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$32,975
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $31,475

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2014 RAM 1500 QUAD CAB 4X4

Bright Silver Metallic, 5.7 Hemi V8 Engine, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, Cloth 40/20/40 Seat, Remote Keyless Entry, Satellite Radio, Bright Grill and Bumpers, Power Windows and Locks, Receiver Hitch, and Much More! C4-618

MSRP	$34,710
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,715
REBATE	- 1,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$29,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $28,495

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2014 RAM 1500 QUAD CAB 4X4 DEMO

White, 5.76 Hemi V8 Engine, 20 Inch Chrome Clad Wheels, Rear Back-Up Camera, Receiver Hitch, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, 8-Speed Automatic Transmission, Touch Screen, and Much More! C4-526

MSRP	$38,740
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 4,245
REBATE	- 1,000
RAM TRUCK BONUS CASH	- 1,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$31,495
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $29,995

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2014 CHRYSLER 300

Gloss Black, Navigation, BEATS Audio System, 18 Inch Chrome Clad Wheels, Remote Start, Rear Back-Up Camera, Heated Front Seats, and Much More! C4-750

MSRP	$37,180
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,185
REBATE	- 4,250
BONUS CASH	- 1,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$28,245
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $26,745

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2014 RAM 2500 POWER WAGON CREW CAB 4X4

Blue Streak Pearl, Winch, 6.4 Hemi V-8 Engine, Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Remote Start, Touch Screen Display, Power Seat, Satellite Radio, Clearance Lamps, LT 285 Tires, and Much More! C4-592

MSRP	$52,790
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,795
REBATE	- 3,500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
BONUS CASH	- 1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$44,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $43,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2014 RAM 2500 CREW CAB SLT 4X4

Maximum Steel Metallic, 6.7 Cummins Diesel, Rear Back-Up Camera, 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, Navigation, Rear Park Assist, Snow Plow Prep Package, Power Seat, Fog Lamps, 18 Inch Polished Forged Aluminum Wheels, Touch Screen Display, Heated Front Seats, BIG HORN Package, and Much More! C4-639

MSRP	$54,605
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 4,610
REBATE	- 3,500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$45,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $44,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2014 RAM 1500 REGULAR CAB 4X4

Granite Crystal, Power Windows and Locks, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, 5.7 HEMI V-8 Engine, 20 Inch Chrome Clad Wheels, Receiver Hitch, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, Express Package, Fog Lamps, and Much More! C4-663

MSRP	$34,410
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,915
REBATE	- 1,500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$28,995
MIITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $27,495

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2014 RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB 4X4

Flame Red, OUTDOORSMAN PACKAGE, 5.7 Hemi V8 Engine, Remote Start, Bucket Seats, Fog Lamps, Satellite Radio, Receiver Hitch, Touch Screen Display, Power Seat, 8-Speed Automatic Transmission, Back-Up Camera, Park Assist, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, and Much More! C4-489

MSRP	$43,425
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 3,430
REBATE	- 1,500
RAM TRUCK BONUS CASH	- 2,000
BONUS CASH	- 1,000
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$34,495
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $32,995

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2014 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED 4X4 SAHARA

Firecracker red, Leather Interior, Body Color 3-Piece Hard Top, Navigation, Remote Start, Automatic Transmission, Connectivity Group with Bluetooth, Heated Front Seats, Alpine 9-Speaker System, and Much More! C4-764

MSRP	$40,065
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,565
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$37,500
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $36,000

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2014 RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB 4X4

Maximum Steel Metallic, 5.7 Hemi V8 Engine, BIG HORN Package, Touch Screen Radio, Rear Camera and Park Assist Group, Remote Start and Security Group, 8-Speed automatic Transmission, Power Seat, Chrome Body Side Molding, 20 Inch Chrome Clad Wheels, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, and Much More! C4-735

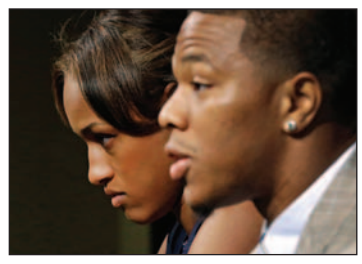
MSRP	$44,540
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 4,045
REBATE	- 1,500
BIG FINISH BONUS CASH	- 500
RAM TRUCK BONUS CASH	- 2,000
BONUS CASH	- 1,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$34,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 1,000

AS LOW AS $33,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)

hp SPORTS

NFL domestic violence voted top sports story of 2014
Page C3



HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

New SJ baseball coach ready for return

Ackerman returns to the diamond after a 10-year break from coaching

By AL AREND
HP Sports Correspondent

St. Joseph's new varsity baseball coach is certainly no stranger to the game.

The Bears have hired Tom Ackerman to replace Eric Danapilis, who resigned this past summer.

Ackerman, 52, owner of the Get-A-Way Cubby Bar in Bridgman, has basically been away from the game he loves as a head coach or manager for the past 10 years.

"When I heard of the opening at St. Joe, a number of people told me I should look into it, and I did," stated Ackerman, a former Major League scout for the Cleveland Indians and Detroit Tigers. He also was head coach at Lake Michigan College and Benton Harbor High School, plus manager of the St. Joseph American Legion Post 163 team.

"Baseball is in my blood. I've loved coaching everywhere I've been," added Ackerman, an all-state shortstop at Benton Harbor High (1980 graduate) who went on to play baseball at Western Michigan University (1981-84) and was a member of two Mid-American Conference championship teams.

"I became familiar with the St. Joe system when I managed Post 163 (2002-04)," noted Ackerman. "It's a great school, and the administration has been very supportive, plus they have a great feeder system."

"We'll be young, but I feel we have enough talent to compete with any one," added Ackerman. "I like to run, bunt, field, hit-and-run, anything it takes to force a little momentum our way. It should be fun."

After graduating from WMU, Ackerman took on the head coaching job at Lake Michigan College where he coached for 14 years compiling a record of 432-217. He made the NJCAA playoffs every year, including three regional titles (1985, '92 and '98) and a fifth place finish nationwide in 2000. He was named regional coach of the year on numerous occasions.

He was head coach at Benton Harbor High for two years in the late-1990s before returning the coach at Lake Michigan College through 2001.

In his three years as manager of the St. Joe Legion Post 163, Ackerman's teams went 111-22, including a state runner-up in 2003.

"We're going to play the game the right way and respect it," added Ackerman, who along with his wife, Christina have five children. "If we do that, the winning will take care of itself."

Big CMU rally falls short in Bahamas Bowl

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — A miracle comeback for Central Michigan on a record-setting day by quarterback Cooper Rush fell just short at the inaugural Bahamas Bowl.

W. Kentucky 49
C. Michigan 48

Down by 35 points with 12 minutes remaining, Central Michigan scored the final five touchdowns of the game, including a three-lateral, 75-yard dazzler on the final play. But Western Kentucky escaped with a 49-48 victory Wednesday when Rush's 2-point conversion pass fell incomplete.

Rush was officially credited with seven touchdown passes, a bowl record, in the first college football postseason game played outside the U.S. or Canada since Jan. 1, 1937. The last of his TD passes came on a wild sequence in which six Chippewas touched the ball.

"It was a roller-coaster ride," said Western Kentucky quarterback Brandon Doughty, who threw for five touchdowns and increased his nation-leading total to 49 on the season. "We were just lucky and blessed that we got the win."

Very lucky.

The Chippewas got the ball on their own 25 with a second remaining after a punt, trailing 49-42. Rush threw deep to Jesse Kroll, who caught the ball between three Western Kentucky defenders at the Hilltoppers' 29. Kroll advanced the ball slightly before lateraling to Deon Butler, who got the ball to Courtney Williams just before getting tackled.

Williams then tossed the ball to Titus Davis, who caught it at the 15 and outran three Western Kentucky

See **CMU**, page C3

Michigan State football may lose more than Narduzzi

By JOE REXRODE
Detroit Free Press (TNS)

EAST LANSING, Mich. - Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio has successfully replaced four assistant coaches so far in his tenure with the Spartans.

Depending on how things go in the near future, he may have as many as three to replace this offseason.

It's not just that the star of Dantonio's staff, defensive coordinator and assistant head coach Pat Narduzzi, will reportedly be named Pittsburgh's head coach this week. Narduzzi's going to need a defensive coordinator at Pitt and two members of the MSU defensive staff are prime candidates.

Defensive backs coach Harlon Barnett and linebackers coach Mike Tressel are the leading candidates to replace Narduzzi and take over MSU's defense as well. It's possible Dantonio could try to elevate both and have co-coordinators - as he does on offense with Dave Warner and Jim Bollman.

Or one could end up as his defensive coordinator and the other running the defense for Narduzzi, who is reported by Sports Illustrated and ESPN.com to be taking the Pitt job.

And Narduzzi is going to need offensive assistants as well. MSU quarterbacks coach Brad Salem jumps out as a potential candidate to be his offensive coordinator – he was head coach at Augustana College from 2005-09 before coming to MSU.

MSU offensive line coach Mark Staten also could be

See **SPARTANS**, page C3

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Holiday hoops time

Jody Warner / HP correspondent

Benton Harbor's Malik Hall (23) and Jaton Gunn (3) battle for a rebound during a Dec. 12 game against Portage Central. Benton Harbor's annual Earl McKee Holiday Tournament will be Friday and Saturday.

Earl McKee Holiday Tournament one of two basketball tourneys hosted by Tigers

By HP STAFF

Benton Harbor will host its annual Earl McKee Holiday Tournament this weekend, one of several area basketball tournaments over the holiday season.

The tournament begins Friday, with Bridgman taking on Paw Paw at 6 p.m., and the host Tigers facing New Buffalo at 8 p.m.

The consolation game will be at 6 p.m. Saturday, with the championship game to follow at 8 p.m.

Muskegon Heights won the tournament last season, defeating Bridgman in the title game.

Benton Harbor (3-0) won its own tourney in 2011 and 2012. The Tigers are off to a strong start after reaching last season's Class B state championship game, and are led by returning starters Curtis Dawson, Jaton Gunn and Malik Hall.

Paw Paw (3-1) and New Buffalo (1-2) are newcomers to the tournament. Bridgman (3-1) has been a regular participant over the past few seasons.

Benton Harbor will also host the Lou Harvey Great Lakes Classic on Jan. 3.

The event will include four varsity girls basketball games.

The varsity action begins at 3 p.m. with Paw Paw (4-2) taking on Muskegon Heights. Brandywine (5-0) will play Dearborn Heights Robichaud at 4:30 p.m., Kalamazoo Loy Norrix (1-4) will take on Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills at 6 p.m., and the event concludes with a matchup between Benton Harbor (4-2) and South Bend Washington.

Bridgman will host a girls basketball holiday tournament Monday and Tuesday. Holland Black River will face White Pigeon (4-1) at 6 p.m. Monday, with host Bridgman (1-3) taking on Watervliet (4-1) at 7:30 p.m.

The consolation game will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, with the championship game to follow at 7:30 p.m.

Sports in 2014: From mayhem to gold

By FRED LIEF
AP Sports Writer

Hold on a moment. Let's see the year out,
But what in the world was that all about?
In sports, it seems clear, all mayhem let loose:
Racism, head trauma, spousal abuse.
And that's just the start of one sorry list
Led by Sterling's mouth, Putin's iron fist
And Roger Goodell's fast weakening spine,
His body of work in sudden decline.
Far better, for sure, than such dreary talk:
LeBron coming home in a cloud of chalk;
Bumgarner taking a team on his back.
So paint the town orange and paint it black.
But we're jumping too fast out of the gate.
Let's start from the top and recalculate.

Winter 2014

The BCS ends, the Seminoles win,
Winston's troubles are about to begin.
Vonn skips the Olympics — knee's the reason.
A-Rod is banned and sits out a season.
Sherman pelts Crabtree with torrents of trash.
Australia swelters; Wawrinka's a smash.
The right to form unions comes to the fore
When Northwestern players open the door.
Adam Silver checks in and out goes Stern,
Then the Seahawks soar while the Broncos burn.
Sochi begins with more sunshine than sleet
And more than enough political heat.
Will athletes protest?

See **2014**, page C3

Danny Moloshok / AP

In this Dec. 19, 2010, file photo, Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, right, and V. Stiviano, left, watch the Clippers play the Los Angeles Lakers.

In brief

Former U-M OC now at Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Florida has hired former Michigan offensive coordinator Doug Nussmeier to the same position.

The Gators announced the move Wednesday, nearly three weeks after new coach Jim McElwain accepted the job.

McElwain hired former Mississippi State defensive coordinator Geoff Collins to the same position last week.

Nussmeier's announcement will draw significantly more interest at Florida, where fans have been starved for offense since Tim Tebow left school after the 2009 season.

The Gators ranked 82nd in the nation in total offense in 2010 and have been mostly inept in the four seasons since, ranking 105th (2011), 103rd (2012), 113th (2013) and 91st (currently).

Source: Josh Smith to join Houston Rockets

HOUSTON (AP) — Josh Smith will join the Houston Rockets following his release by the Detroit Pistons, a person with knowledge of the decision said Wednesday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because Smith hasn't yet cleared waivers.

Smith was let go by the Pistons this week after signing a four-year, $54 million contract in July 2013. The small forward has averaged 15.4 points and 7.8 rebounds during his 11-year career. He averaged 13.1 points and 7.2 rebounds in 28 games this season.

He also is averaging 4.7 assists, 1.3 steals and 1.7 blocks a game this season.

The move will reunite him with AAU teammate and longtime friend Dwight Howard, who is in his second season in Houston. Smith should be a boost to a team that has played the last 23 games without starting power forward Terrence Jones. Jones averaged 14 points and 7.5 rebounds last season, but is out indefinitely with nerve inflammation in his left leg.

The 6-foot-9, 225-pound Smith was the 17th overall pick by the Atlanta Hawks in 2004.

Pistons trade Mitchell for Suns' Tolliver

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns have traded forward Anthony Tolliver to the Detroit Pistons for forward Tony Mitchell.

The Suns are expected to release Mitchell to create an additional $2.2 million in salary cap space, giving the team a total of $6.2 million available and an open roster spot.

Phoenix signed Tolliver to a two-year, $6 million contract in the offseason, with the idea it would help make up for the loss of Channing Frye. But Tolliver played sparingly and was not part of the regular rotation as the season went on.

He played in 24 games for the Suns, averaging 3.3 points per game.

Mitchell, a second-round draft pick of Detroit last season, was playing for Grand Rapids of the NBA Developmental League.

Probe of fire at NFL player's home slowed

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Rainy weather slowed down investigators Wednesday as they probed a fire that burned the Alabama mansion of Dallas Cowboys linebacker Rolando McClain.

Investigators were back at the scene of the fire at Lake Tuscaloosa, but a spokesman said rain was making the search for clues more difficult.

"This is like finding a needle in a haystack," said Lt. Andy Norris of the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

The Cowboys said McClain, 25, missed practice because he was in Alabama handling issues related to the blaze.

Sheriff's officials and the State Fire Marshal's Office are trying to determine what caused a fire that gutted McClain's home north of Tuscaloosa.

The house was on the market with a price of $1.5 million when it burned.

Authorities said a witness reported seeing a speeding car leaving the area around the time the blaze began Monday night, but Norris said investigators weren't able to get a description of the vehicle.

Norris said suspicions were also raised because the house was high-priced and vacant.

Airwaves

Television today

12:00 p.m. (ESPN) **NBA Basketball** Washington Wizards at New York Knicks. T (Live) CC
2:30 p.m. (7) (13) (41) (57) **NBA Basketball** Oklahoma City Thunder at San Antonio Spurs. (Live)
5:00 p.m. (7) (13) (41) (57) **NBA Basketball** Cleveland Cavaliers at Miami Heat. (Live) CC
6:30 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic, Third Place (Live)
8:00 p.m. (TNT) **NBA Basketball** Los Angeles Lakers at Chicago Bulls. (Live) CC
8:30 p.m. (ESPN2) **College Basketball** Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic, Final. (Live)
10:30 p.m. (TNT) **NBA Basketball** Golden State Warriors at Los Angeles Clippers. (Live) CC

Friday

7:45 a.m. (NBCSports) **English Premier League Soccer** Chelsea FC vs West Ham United FC. (Live)
12:30 p.m. (NBCSports) **English Premier League Soccer** Arsenal FC vs Queens Park Rangers FC. (Live)
1:00 p.m. (ESPN) **College Football** Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl — Illinois vs. Louisiana Tech. (Live)
4:30 p.m. (ESPN) **College Football** Quick Lane Bowl — North Carolina vs. Rutgers. (Live)
7:30 p.m. (FoxDetroit) **NBA Basketball** Indiana Pacers at Detroit Pistons. (Live)
8:00 p.m. (ESPN) **College Football** Bitcoin St. Petersburg Bowl — North Carolina State vs. Central Florida. (Live)

Radio today

8 p.m.
NBA — Lakers at Bulls (WMVP-AM, 1000)

Friday

7:15 p.m.
Boys high school basketball — Earl McKee Benton Harbor Holiday Tournament, Benton Harbor vs. New Buffalo (WSJM-AM, 1400)

Contact us

The Herald-Palladium sports desk is staffed after 7 p.m. nightly. Coaches or managers are asked to report results as soon as possible the evening of the event for publication in the next day's edition.

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NFL domestic violence voted AP sports story of the year

By RACHEL COHEN
AP Sports Writer

Patrick Semansky / AP

Janay Rice, left, looks on as her husband, former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice, speaks during a news conference at the team's practice facility in Owings Mills, Md., in May. Ray Rice spoke to the media for the first time since his arrest for assaulting his fiance, now his wife, at a casino in Atlantic City, N.J.

NEW YORK — The NFL's troubles with domestic violence were selected the sports story of the year Tuesday in an annual vote conducted by The Associated Press.

Ninety-four ballots were submitted from U.S. editors and news directors. Voters were asked to rank the top 10 sports stories of the year, with the first-place story receiving 10 points, the second-place story nine points and so on.

NFL domestic violence received 659 points and 29 first-place votes.

The No. 2 sports story, Clippers owner Donald Sterling forced out by the NBA after his racist statements, had 518 points.

Here are 2014's top 10 stories:

1. NFL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Baltimore Ravens star running back Ray Rice knocked his now-wife unconscious in an Atlantic City casino elevator Feb. 15, but it wasn't until July 24 that domestic violence cases spiraled into a crisis roiling the NFL. Commissioner Roger Goodell suspended Rice for just two games, which drew widespread derision. More than a month passed before Goodell admitted he "didn't get it right" and announced harsher sanctions for future domestic violence offenses.

But the NFL's problems were only beginning. On Sept. 8, TMZ Sports released video from inside the elevator that showed Rice punching his then-fiancee; the Ravens responded by releasing him and Goodell suspended him indefinitely. And on Sept. 12, one of the league's biggest stars, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, was indicted on felony child abuse charges for using a wooden switch to discipline his 4-year-old son. The Vikings initially planned to play him just over a week later, reversing course only after the ensuing uproar.

The year ends with Rice reinstated by an arbitrator but without a team and Peterson suspended and suing the NFL. Chastened by those and other cases, the league is pushing a new personal conduct policy, but the players' union is balking at Goodell's role in the disciplinary process.

2. CLIPPERS' STERLING BANNED: Donald Sterling had withstood accusations of racism throughout his more than three decades as owner of the Los Angeles Clippers. But when audio surfaced April 25 of Sterling spewing racist remarks, he was banned for life by new NBA Commissioner Adam Silver just four days later and forced to sell the team.

3. LEBRON GOES HOME: This time, LeBron James decided to return home. Four years after spurning Cleveland to sign with the Miami Heat, the Northeast Ohio native and four-time NBA MVP announced July 11 that he was rejoining the Cavaliers to try to end the city's half-century title drought.

4. FIRSTS FOR GAY ATHLETES: Jason Collins became the first openly gay man to play in the big four North American pro sports leagues when he made his debut with the Brooklyn Nets on Feb. 23. The veteran center had come out 10 months earlier, a trailblazing moment that helped inspire other athletes and sports officials to follow his lead in 2014. That included Missouri All-American Michael Sam, who went on to be drafted into the NFL, though he has yet to play in a game.

5. GIANTS WIN WORLD SERIES: Madison Bumgarner pitched seven dominant innings to win Game 1 of the World Series. Then the San Francisco ace topped himself with a shutout in Game 5. He outdid himself yet again with five scoreless innings of relief in Game 7 to clinch the Giants' third championship in five years.

6. COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF PAYS OFF: Ohio State lost to Virginia Tech on Sept. 6. Oregon was upset by Arizona on Oct. 2, and Alabama fell to Ole Miss two days later. The rest of those teams' regular-season games still mattered because of the new College Football Playoff, which made more and more matchups meaningful deep into the fall.

7. TONY STEWART: One of NASCAR's biggest stars, Tony Stewart, was taking part in a small sprint car race in upstate New York on Aug. 9 when he struck and killed 20-year-old driver Kevin Ward Jr. A grand jury decided not to bring criminal charges against Stewart, who skipped three NASCAR races as he grieved.

8. WORLD CUP: Brazil's World Cup was a big celebration until those German goals started piling up. The expected massive protests didn't materialize, and the construction delays caused few headaches. The major disappointment came on the field when the hosts, without injured star Neymar, were thrashed 7-1 in the semifinals by eventual champion Germany.

9. SEAHAWKS WIN SUPER BOWL: Richard Sherman's Seattle defense was way too much for Peyton Manning's Denver offense. The Seahawks flustered and flattened the Broncos with a 43-8 victory in the Super Bowl, when the weather cooperated outdoors in New Jersey.

10. SOCHI OLYMPICS: The Sochi Olympics opened amid fears of terrorist attacks and denunciations of Russia's so-called "gay propaganda" law. The games went on peacefully, with the hosts winning 33 medals — though not in hockey. But by the closing ceremony, darkness lurked nearby in the world in violence in Ukraine.

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NBA

All Times EST
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	22	7	.759	—
Brooklyn	12	15	.444	9
Boston	10	16	.385	10½
New York	5	25	.167	17½
Philadelphia	4	23	.148	17

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	21	7	.750	—
Washington	19	8	.704	1½
Miami	13	16	.448	8½
Orlando	11	20	.355	11½
Charlotte	10	19	.345	11½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	19	9	.679	—
Cleveland	17	10	.630	1½
Milwaukee	14	15	.483	5½
Indiana	10	19	.345	9½
Detroit	5	23	.179	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	21	7	.750	—
Houston	20	7	.741	½
Dallas	20	10	.667	2
San Antonio	18	11	.621	3½
New Orleans	14	14	.500	7

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	23	7	.767	—
Oklahoma City	13	16	.448	9½
Denver	12	17	.414	10½
Utah	9	20	.310	13½
Minnesota	5	22	.185	16½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	23	4	.852	—
L.A. Clippers	19	10	.655	5
Phoenix	16	14	.533	8½
Sacramento	12	16	.429	11½
L.A. Lakers	9	19	.321	14½

Tuesday's Games
Chicago 99, Washington 91
Orlando 100, Boston 95
Indiana 96, New Orleans 84
Cleveland 125, Minnesota 104
Atlanta 107, L.A. Clippers 104
Philadelphia 91, Miami 87
Brooklyn 102, Denver 96
Portland 115, Oklahoma City 111, OT
Charlotte 108, Milwaukee 101
Phoenix 124, Dallas 115
L.A. Lakers 115, Golden State 105
Wednesday's Games
No games scheduled
Today's Games
Washington at New York, 12 p.m.
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 2:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Miami, 5 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Friday's Games
Brooklyn at Boston, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Houston at Memphis, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Denver, 9 p.m.
Philadelphia at Portland, 10 p.m.
Phoenix at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

NFL

All Times EST
AMERICAN CONFERENCE
East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	12	3	0	.800	459	296
Miami	8	7	0	.533	364	336
Buffalo	8	7	0	.533	326	280
N.Y. Jets	3	12	0	.200	246	377

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Indianapolis	10	5	0	.667	431	359
Houston	8	7	0	.533	349	290
Jacksonville	3	12	0	.200	232	389
Tennessee	2	13	0	.133	244	411

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Cincinnati	10	4	1	.700	348	317
x-Pittsburgh	10	5	0	.667	409	351
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	389	292
Cleveland	7	8	0	.467	289	317

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	11	4	0	.733	435	340
San Diego	9	6	0	.600	341	329
Kansas City	8	7	0	.533	334	274
Oakland	3	12	0	.200	239	405

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Dallas	11	4	0	.733	423	335
Philadelphia	9	6	0	.600	440	374
N.Y. Giants	6	9	0	.400	354	366
Washington	4	11	0	.267	284	394

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	6	8	1	.433	305	371
Atlanta	6	9	0	.400	378	383
New Orleans	6	9	0	.400	378	404
Tampa Bay	2	13	0	.133	257	387

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Detroit	11	4	0	.733	301	252
x-Green Bay	11	4	0	.733	456	328
Minnesota	6	9	0	.400	312	334
Chicago	5	10	0	.333	310	429

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Seattle	11	4	0	.733	374	248
x-Arizona	11	4	0	.733	293	279
San Francisco	7	8	0	.467	286	323
St. Louis	6	9	0	.400	318	334

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
Sunday's Games
Indianapolis at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Washington, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Miami, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Oakland at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
Detroit at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
Carolina at Atlanta, 4:25 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 8:30 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

All Times EST
Saturday, Dec. 20
New Orleans Bowl
Louisiana-Lafayette 16, Nevada 3
New Mexico Bowl
At Albuquerque
Utah State 21, UTEP 6
Las Vegas Bowl
Utah 45, Colorado State 10
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
At Boise
Air Force 38, Western Michigan 24
Camelia Bowl
At Montgomery, Ala.
Bowling Green 33, South Alabama 28
Monday, Dec. 22
Miami Beach Bowl
Memphis 55, BYU 48, 2OT
Tuesday, Dec. 23
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
Marshall 52, Northern Illinois 23
Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
Navy 17, San Diego State 16
Wednesday, Dec. 24
Bahamas Bowl
At Nassau
Western Kentucky 49, Central Michigan 48
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Rice (7-5) vs. Fresno State (6-7)
Friday, Dec. 26
Heart of Dallas Bowl
Illinois (6-6) vs. Louisiana Tech (8-4), 1 p.m. (ESPN)
Quick Lane Bowl
At Detroit
Rutgers (7-5) vs. North Carolina (6-6), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
St. Petersburg (Fla.) Bowl
UCF (9-3) vs. N.C. State (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
At Annapolis, Md.
Virginia Tech (6-6) vs. Cincinnati (9-3), 1 p.m. (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Duke (9-3) vs. Arizona State (9-3), 2 p.m. (CBS)
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Miami (6-6) vs. South Carolina (6-6), 4 p.m. (ESPN2)
Pinstripe Bowl
At Bronx, N.Y.
Boston College (7-5) vs. Penn State (6-6), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Nebraska (9-3) vs. Southern Cal (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Dec. 29
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
West Virginia (7-5) vs. Texas A&M (7-5), 2 p.m. (ESPN)
Russell Athletic Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Clemson (9-3) vs. Oklahoma (8-4), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Texas Bowl
At Houston
Texas (6-6) vs. Arkansas (6-6), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 30
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Notre Dame (7-5) vs. LSU (8-4), 3 p.m. (ESPN)
Belk Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Louisville (9-3) vs. Georgia (9-3), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Fosters Farm Bowl
At Santa Clara, Calif.
Stanford (7-5) vs. Maryland (7-5), 10 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 31
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
Mississippi (9-3) vs. TCU (11-1), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Boise State (11-2) vs. Arizona (10-3), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Orange Bowl
At Miami Gardens, Fla.
Mississippi State (10-2) vs. Georgia Tech (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Wisconsin (10-3) vs. Auburn (8-4), Noon (ESPN2)
Cotton Bowl Classic
At Arlington, Texas
Michigan State (10-2) vs. Baylor (11-1), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Minnesota (8-4) vs. Missouri (10-3), 1 p.m. (ABC)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Playoff semifinal: Oregon (12-1) vs. Florida State (13-0), 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Playoff semifinal: Alabama (12-1) vs. Ohio State (12-1), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Jan. 2
Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth, Texas
Pittsburgh (6-6) vs. Houston (7-5), Noon (ESPN)
TaxSlayer Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Iowa (7-5) vs. Tennessee (6-6), 3:20 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
UCLA (9-3) vs. Kansas State (9-3), 6:45 p.m. (ESPN)
Cactus Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Oklahoma State (6-6) vs. Washington (8-5), 10:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Jan. 3
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
Florida (6-5) vs. East Carolina (8-4), 1 p.m. (ESPN2)
GoDaddy Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Toledo (8-4) vs. Arkansas State (7-5), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Jan. 10
Medal of Honor Bowl
At Charleston, S.C.
American vs. National, 2:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 12
College Football Championship
At Arlington, Texas
Sugar Bowl winner vs. Rose Bowl winner, 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Jan. 17
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, 4 p.m. (NFLN)
NFLPA Collegiate Bowl
At Carson, Calif.
National vs. American, 4 p.m. (ESPN2)
Saturday, Jan. 24
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 4 p.m. (NFLN)

W. KENTUCKY 49, CENT. MICHIGAN 48

Cent. Michigan	**7**	**7**	**0**	**34**	**— 48**
W. Kentucky	**21**	**21**	**7**	**0**	**— 49**

First Quarter
WKen—Dangerfield 14 pass from Doughty (Schwettman kick), 11:23.
CMU—T.Davis 21 pass from Rush (Eavey kick), 10:00.
WKen—German 12 pass from Doughty (Schwettman kick), 8:07.
WKen—Grant 19 pass from Doughty (Schwettman kick), 1:13.
Second Quarter
WKen—Henry 16 pass from Doughty (Schwettman kick), 10:03.
CMU—Williams 30 pass from Rush (Eavey kick), 2:55.
WKen—McNeal 55 pass from Doughty (Schwettman kick), 1:41.
WKen—L.Allen 1 run (Schwettman kick), :04.
Third Quarter
WKen—Wales 21 run (Schwettman kick), 8:55.
Fourth Quarter
CMU—T.Davis 12 pass from Rush (Eavey kick), 11:37.
CMU—T.Davis 23 pass from Rush (Eavey kick), 8:03.
CMU—Williams 10 pass from Rush (Eavey kick), 3:06.
CMU—Garland 7 pass from Rush (Eavey kick), 1:09.
CMU—T.Davis 20 pass from Rush (pass failed), :00.
A—13,667.

	CMU	WKen
First downs	28	30
Rushes-yards	29-122	32-161
Passing	485	486
Comp-Att-Int	28-45-1	31-42-0
Return Yards	0	16
Punts-Avg.	4-19.3	3-28.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	3-2
Penalties-Yards	8-77	9-105
Time of Possession	32:51	27:09

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Cent. Michigan, Walker 9-76, Rush 8-26, Spalding 8-12, Lavallii 4-8. W. Kentucky, Wales 14-95, L.Allen 13-52, Taylor 1-11, Doughty 2-4, Towner 1-1, Team 1-(minus 2).
PASSING—Cent. Michigan, Rush 28-45-1-485. W. Kentucky, Doughty 31-42-0-486.
RECEIVING—Cent. Michigan, T.Davis 6-142, Kroll 4-107, Butler 4-60, Williams 3-76, Rice 3-32, Kinville 2-18, Spalding 2-17, Lavallii 2-5, Bacci 1-21, Garland 1-7. W. Kentucky, McNeal 5-155, Dangerfield 5-87, L.Allen 5-45, German 4-27, Henry 3-47, Norris 3-33, Grant 2-30, Taylor 1-28, Gorski 1-18, Wales 1-12, Higbee 1-4.

NHL

All Times EST
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	35	22	11	2	46	95	84
Tampa Bay	36	21	11	4	46	117	96
Detroit	35	18	8	9	45	100	87
Toronto	35	20	12	3	43	118	102
Boston	35	18	14	3	39	91	91
Florida	32	15	9	8	38	73	82
Ottawa	34	14	14	6	34	90	94
Buffalo	35	13	19	3	29	69	115

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	34	22	7	5	49	108	80
N.Y. Islanders	34	23	11	0	46	105	94
N.Y. Rangers	32	18	10	4	40	97	83
Washington	34	17	11	6	40	99	90
Philadelphia	34	14	14	6	34	97	101
Columbus	33	14	16	3	31	80	107
New Jersey	36	12	17	7	31	78	104
Carolina	34	10	20	4	24	70	93

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	35	23	10	2	48	107	72
Nashville	33	22	9	2	46	95	70
St. Louis	34	21	10	3	45	100	86
Winnipeg	35	18	10	7	43	88	81
Minnesota	32	16	13	3	35	93	89
Colorado	34	13	13	8	34	90	101
Dallas	33	14	14	5	33	95	113

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	36	23	8	5	51	104	98
San Jose	35	19	11	5	43	99	90
Vancouver	33	20	11	2	42	99	91
Los Angeles	35	17	11	7	41	97	88
Calgary	36	18	15	3	39	104	98
Arizona	34	12	18	4	28	80	112
Edmonton	35	7	21	7	21	75	121

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.
Tuesday's Games
Carolina 2, New Jersey 1, SO
Boston 5, Nashville 3
Montreal 3, N.Y. Islanders 1
N.Y. Rangers 4, Washington 2
Philadelphia 5, Minnesota 2
Toronto 4, Dallas 0
Detroit 6, Buffalo 3
Tampa Bay 4, Pittsburgh 3
Arizona 5, Edmonton 1
Colorado 5, St. Louis 0
Winnipeg 5, Chicago 1
Wednesday's Games
No games scheduled
Today's Games
No games scheduled
Friday's Games
No games scheduled

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE — Suspended N.Y. Mets 2B L.J. Mazzilli (St. Lucie-FSL) 50 games for a second positive test for a drug of abuse in violation of the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Claimed C Ryan Lavarnway off waivers from the Chicago Cubs. Released OF Quintin Berry.
HOUSTON ASTROS — Assigned INF Gregorio Petit outright to Fresno (PCL).
MINNESOTA TWINS — Agreed to terms with RHP Tim Stauffer on a one-year contract. Assigned C Eric Fryer and OF Chris Parmelee outright to Rochester (IL).
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Assigned RHP Fernando Rodriguez outright to Nashville (PCL).
SEATTLE MARINERS — Assigned RHP Logan Bawcom outright to Tacoma (PCL).
TEXAS RANGERS — Announced RHP Ben Rowen cleared unconditional waivers and is a free agent.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Claimed LHP Scott Barnes off waivers from Texas and RHP Preston Guilmet from Pittsburgh.
National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with C David Ross on a two-year contract. Assigned RHP Donn Roach and INF Logan Watkins outright to Iowa (PCL). Claimed LHP Mike Kickham off waivers from San Francisco.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Assigned OF/1B Kyle Jensen outright to Oklahoma City (PCL).
MIAMI MARLINS — Claimed RHP Preston Claiborne off waivers from the N.Y. Yankees.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Claimed 1B Shane Peterson off waivers from the Chicago Cubs.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Jordan Walden on a two-year contract.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Assigned 1B Angel Villalona outright to Sacramento (PCL). Agreed to terms with RHP Jake Peavy on a two-year contract.
American Association
KANSAS CITY T-BONES — Signed OF Robby Kuzdale.
WINNIPEG GOLDEYES — Signed LHP Nick Hernandez.
Frontier League
EVANSVILLE OTTERS — Signed 3B Pat Kregeloh. Exercised 2015 contract options on RHPs Connor Little, Edgar Lopez, Eric Massingham, Evan Mott, Will Oliver, Preston Olson, Brandon Shimo and Trevor Walch; LHPs Cody Boutte, Anthony Collazo and Blake Monar; INFs Josh Allen, Cory Urquhart and Phillip Wilson; 1B Nik Balog; Cs Kolin Conner and Jaime Del Valle; and OFs J.R. Higley, Jeremy Nowak, John Schultz and OF Chris Sweeney,
ROCKFORD AVIATORS — Signed OF Edgar Corcino to a contract extension.
SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS — Signed LHP Anthony Gomez, INF Cameron Sherrer, OF Justin Vasquez and RHPs Dexter Price, Anthony Smith and Seth Webster to contract extensions.
WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS — Exercised 2015 contract options on RHPs Dyllan Nuernberg, James Ferguson, Jesse Snodgrass, Jason Kafka, Chris DeBoo, Travis Tingle, Reece McGraw and Eli Anderson; LHPs Pete Whittingslow, Jake Fisher and Zak Wasserman; INFs Mike Torres, Garrett Carey, Ryan Soars and Tony Viger; and OFs Ryan Tufts, Kyle Robinson, Ryan McIntyre and Max White. Declined options on RHPs Victor Larez and Brian Oliver and OF Andrew Brauer.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS — Signed F Malcolm Thomas. Released F Ronny Turiaf.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
ATLANTA FALCONS — Placed S William Moore on injured reserve. Signed S Sean Baker from the practice squad and RB Ronnie Wingo to the practice squad.

GLANTZ-CULVER LINE

NCAA Football
Friday
Heart of Dallas Bowl

FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
Louisiana Tech	4	6	(57 1/2)	Illinois
Quick Lane Bowl				
North Carolina	3	3	(67)	Rutgers
St. Petersburg (Fla.) Bowl				
UCF	3	2	(49)	NC State
Saturday				
Military Bowl				
Cincinnati	3 1/2	3	(51)	Virginia Tech
Sun Bowl				
Arizona St.	9	7 1/2	(65 1/2)	Duke
Independence Bowl				
Miami	Pk	3 1/2	(61)	South Carolina
Pinstripe Bowl				
Boston College	2 1/2	2 1/2	(40)	Penn St.
Holiday Bowl				
Southern Cal	4	7	(62)	Nebraska
NFL				
Sunday				
FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
at Green Bay	7 1/2	7 1/2	(47 1/2)	Detroit
at Houston	9 1/2	9 1/2	(40 1/2)	Jacksonville
at Pittsburgh	3	3 1/2	(48)	Cincinnati
Indianapolis	7	7	(46 1/2)	at Tennessee
at Baltimore	9	10	(41 1/2)	Cleveland
at New England	10 1/2	4 1/2	(44)	Buffalo
at Miami	6	5 1/2	(42)	N.Y. Jets
at Atlanta	3 1/2	4	(47 1/2)	Carolina
at Minnesota	7	6 1/2	(44)	Chicago
at Kansas City	3	2 1/2	(42 1/2)	San Diego
at N.Y. Giants	1 1/2	3	(52 1/2)	Philadelphia
Dallas	5	6	(49 1/2)	at Washington
New Orleans	3 1/2	4	(47)	at Tampa Bay
at Seattle	13 1/2	12 1/2	(41)	St. Louis
at San Francisco	4	6	(36 1/2)	Arizona
at Denver	14	14	(48)	Oakland

SPARTANS

From page C1

a candidate, especially considering the fact that he recruits Pennsylvania for MSU.

Salem came to MSU after Dantonio lost assistant coach Dan Enos to Central Michigan. When offensive coordinator Don Treadwell left to be head coach at Miami (Ohio) after the 2010 season, Dantonio promoted Dan Roushar and hired Terry Samuel to coach receivers.

When Roushar left for the New Orleans Saints after the 2012 season, Dantonio promoted Warner from quarterbacks coach and hired Jim Bollman to share coordinator duties with him. Those two have directed an offense for No. 7 MSU (10-2) that has broken several school records this season entering the Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl against No. 4 Baylor (11-1).

Dantonio let defensive line coach Ted Gill go after the 2012 season and hired Ron Burton to replace him. He is 4-for-4 in replacement hires so far, but his eye for personnel is about to be tested like never before.

CMU

From page C1

players to the end zone, reaching to knock over the pylon as he fell out of bounds to complete the bizarre play.

On the conversion pass for the win, Rush tried to find Kroll again, before the play was broken up by Western Kentucky's Wonderful Terry.

A wonderful finish, indeed.

"I want to tell Central Michigan that's one heck of a job by them," Western Kentucky coach Jeff Brohm said. "They showed the heart and spirit that this game is all about."

The ending largely overshadowed a huge day by Doughty, who threw for 486 yards.

Doughty completed 31 of 42 passes for the Hilltoppers (8-5) and capped the sixth-highest single-season touchdown total in major college football history.

Rush threw for 485 yards. He never had more than three touchdowns in a college game, and wound up being credited with five in the final 12 minutes for the Chippewas (7-6). Anthony Wales and Leon Allen added touchdown runs for the Hilltoppers.

Davis had three touchdown grabs and then was credited with a fourth on the final play for Central Michigan.

Western Kentucky got touchdowns on all six of its first-half possessions, with the average length of those drives being a mere 2 minutes, 9 seconds. The quick-strike Hilltoppers finished the season with 577 points, the average of 44.4 points ranking sixth-best among FBS teams in 2014 — and didn't punt for the first time on Wednesday until 10 minutes remained in the game.

Doughty and Rush exchanged touchdown passes on the game's first two possessions. After that, Western Kentucky went on a tear.

The Hilltoppers got the next three scores to go up 28-7, before Rush made a great play that figured to give the Chippewas a chance to stay in the game.

Facing a fourth-and-15 from the Western Kentucky 30 with 2:55 left in the half and on a drive where penalties had knocked Central Michigan out of field-goal range, Rush stepped up against a blitz and found Williams over the middle for a score to make it 28-14.

But the Hilltoppers got into the end zone twice more before the half, reclaiming full control.

Doughty had a shot at getting his 50th touchdown pass with about 6 minutes left on a 55-yard gain to McNeal, but he was stripped by Central Michigan's Joe Ostman. And not only did the record nearly slip away, but the game nearly did as well.

This game was the first of a planned run of at least six years of bowl matchups in the Bahamas. They'll be hard-pressed to see another one like this.

2014

From page C1

Who dares to try it?
Horsewhipping Cossacks lash Pussy Riot
Russia passes the flag to Korea —
So much for the luge, on to Crimea.
Michael Sam comes out, hailed for bold action.
The NFL thinks this a "distraction"?
At Daytona, Junior reigns in the rain.
Phil Jackson grabs a Manhattan-bound train.
Pistorius goes to trial, where he grieves
And he sobs and he sweats and shakes and heaves.
March Madness concludes and a Husky roars
For king/queen UConn — all roads lead to Storrs.

Spring

Tiger's back goes bad. He just can't hack it.
Bubba Watson dons one more green jacket.
Donald Sterling, on tape, makes an appeal
(His better angels asleep at the wheel).
He tells his girlfriend, if it's all the same,
Best not to bring blacks to a Clippers game.
This the advice she gets from an elder?
(She of the visor fit for a welder.)
He loses his team and his wife's support
And gallantly calls her a "pig" in court.
Derby and Preakness: California Chrome,
But the colt can't kick a Triple Crown home.
A thriller at Indy by Hunter-Reay.
Nadal sculpts a beauty on French red clay.
The Kings win the Cup - this seems like a trend.
A Heat wave passes and the Spurs ascend.
Two Opens at Pinehurst: golf's jamboree.
First up, Martin Kaymer, then Michelle Wie.

Summer

Brazil takes its place on the World Cup stage.
No shortage of worry, anguish and rage.
The protests soon fade and the streets are tame,
But nowhere in sight the "beautiful game."
Uruguay's Suarez bites Chiellini
As if he's a bowl of shrimp linguini.
Germany's might is alarmingly clear,
Devouring Brazil like schnitzel and beer.
In the final's 113th minute,
Mario Goetze steps up to win it.
Federer's game, while still sharp and vital,
Can't produce an eighth Wimbledon title.
A landmark deal to pay NFL vets
Becomes a lot richer when a judge lets
The damages top the sum once discussed
For ailing players whose brains are concussed.
LeBron misses home — that's fact, not theory —
And takes his talents back to Lake Erie,
Where Johnny Manziel's selling merchandise
And Cleveland is suddenly paradise.
McIlroy breaks up with Wozniacki —
His feet turn cold and his play is rocky.
But the British Open falls for Rory,
The PGA's a similar story.
A tape's soon played — and it's far from pretty —
Of what went down in Atlantic City:
A thunderous smack, a soft suspension,
A public outcry, incomprehension
Over a league that's now run far afield,
Far too intent on "protecting the shield."
All of which leads to investigation
On top of plea deals and litigation.
Has this lawlessness gone beyond the pale?
Are these games sponsored by the county jail?
Then there's the question of how to refer
To Washington's team and not use a slur.
With the NFL under full attack,
A driver is killed at a New York track
Leaving his car in which he'd been riding.
Tony Stewart soon goes into hiding.
With sports imploding while attorneys fight,
From darkening skies comes a shaft of light.
A Little League artist goes on display.
She paints the corners. The name is Mo'ne.
The U.S. Open goes to Serena —
Eighteen majors, like Chris and Martina.

Fall/Winter

At Yankee Stadium, upon this rock,
Saint Jeter at last takes leave of his flock.
Europe again is a Ryder Cup force,
The U.S. team fades — all par for the course.
Kershaw's like Gibson was back in the day
Before the postseason gets in his way.
Not so for the Royals. It's their time to thrive,
With World Series visions of '85.
It all seems so close, this wonderful chase,
Then Alex Gordon is held at third base.
A foul out by Perez, Sandoval's flop,
Game 7 over, the Giants on top.
NASCAR's new format is put to the test,
And Harvick, at Homestead, handles the rest.
Pacquiao scores a big win in Macau,
But is Mayweather next? The real cash cow.
Pro football is thankful for what it's got —
Can you say Tom Brady? Or J.J. Watt? —
While fans in Philly confront ghastly nights
Watching the Sixers awaiting last rites.
At last, college football's playoff debut:
Tide, Oregon, Seminoles, OSU.
Come Heisman time, Mariota's the guy.
He takes to the air 'cause Ducks gotta fly.
Then we start to pack and prepare to leave,
Finding basketball T-shirts: "I Can't Breathe."
And just like that we're in the last inning,
But it's awfully hard to tell who's winning
Amid the uproar, the sound and fury,
The cops and the courts, the judge and jury.
Let's change the music. Something more serene? So here's looking at you, 2015.

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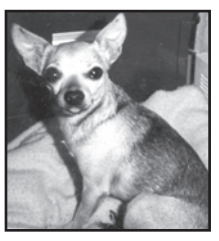

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HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Your strength and resilience will be tested this year. Even if the odds aren't in your favor, you have the wisdom to outsmart any opponent. If you're confident and optimistic, you will discover your strengths through the challenges you overcome, leading to an eventful year.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Focus on entertainment and family togetherness, leaving any professional concerns behind you. Time has a way of tempering problems that develop due to stress. Sit back, and let a window of opportunity open.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Your energetic approach to everything will enable you to go the extra mile. Family and colleagues will be impressed and delighted with your helpful, cooperative input.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You'll tend to be defensive or overly emotional today. Reduce your anxiety by stepping back from confrontational or awkward conversations. A long walk will do you good and help clear your mind.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Problems will occur if you take your partner for granted. If you show appreciation, you will get the kind of response you are looking for. Take care of financial concerns that have been weighing on you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Cash will slip through your fingers. Don't allow your generosity to take a toll on your budget. Organizations will ask for donations, but consider your financial situation before you comply.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your trusting nature will lead to disappointment if someone lets you down. If you can no longer rely on someone, you should re-examine the relationship.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You will gain wisdom by listening to an experienced family member. Visiting relatives and friends or entertaining people in your home will spur interesting, informative conversations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't forget about an ailing or elderly relative. Visit those who cannot come to you. Including others in year-end festivities will bring you happiness and good karma.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Overindulgent people will compromise your position or wallet. Emotions will be difficult to control, making it necessary to think carefully before you say something you may regret.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Sharing your thoughts and plans will be an entertaining and enjoyable way to spend time with family. Delegate year-end chores so that no one gets upset or overwhelmed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You will interact with people who are demanding or overbearing. Refuse to let what others do or say ruin your day. Consider the source, and don't take hurtful or negative comments to heart.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Shopping or traveling to visit relatives will be taxing. Include low-key entertainment that will give you greater control by allowing you to set a comfortable pace.

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Photo provided

Chicago-born bluesman Duke Tumatoe returns Saturday to play at Czar's 505 in St. Joseph. The 67-year-old Tumatoe, whose given name is Bill Fiorio, is best known for his ability to churn out songs with humorous and catchy refrains, and for his performances on the nationally syndicated radio program "The Bob & Tom Show."

GOOD-TIME BLUES

Duke Tumatoe – who plays at Czar's on Saturday – brings sense of humor to his tunes

By JEREMY D. BONFIGLIO
HP Features Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Duke Tumatoe was 13 years old when he first heard legendary blues musician Muddy Waters play.

Growing up on Chicago's South Side during the golden era of electric blues, seeing and even sitting in with legends such as Waters, Willie Dixon, Bo Diddley and Buddy Guy was not uncommon. For a teenage Tumatoe, whose given name is Bill Fiorio, it was a matinee show at a long-forgotten club that sold him on a life of mastering the blues.

"I wasn't even at the club, but I could hear the band," Tumatoe says by telephone from Indianapolis. "When I saw where it was coming from, I could see him from the window. He was in the room, but he wasn't in the room at all. He was in another place. There was this energy coming from him. It was one of the most moving experiences of my life."

That story is the basis for "I'm Not There Yet, But I'll Get There," a new original tune from the 67-year-old bluesman to be featured on his forthcoming 2015 album that will serve as a celebration of the era that not only shaped Tumatoe but countless other musicians who followed.

"The basic premise of it is that I wanted to do an album that reflected those songs, and the artists who affected me," says Tumatoe, who performs Saturday at Czar's 505 in St. Joseph. "There are formative moments in your life that are just there. Once they're in place, they don't go away. I heard that music at an early age and it touched me at an early age. It's part of my fabric, so much so that I'm probably not even qualified to describe how much it has affected me. I listen to what I listen to and play what I play all based on the value I placed on that stuff."

See **TUMATOE**, page D2

School expanding its mission

School of American Music offers new opportunities at Arts & Education Center

By DAVID JOHNSON
For The Herald-Palladium

NEW BUFFALO — The School of American Music has a lot to celebrate as it prepares to open a new Three Oaks Arts & Education Center at the current Three Oaks Village Hall.

"In February we're going to open the doors," school founder, president and guitar instructor Garth Taylor says. "It's a chance for us to do other kinds of programming that we couldn't do before, like group classes for young kids. It's also going to be a place for people to teach classes. We have people who want to teach yoga, people who want to do a community choir. And we're looking at maybe building a little outdoor performance area for stuff like puppet theater and children's plays."

Other proposed offerings include dance, establishing a recording studio, painting, crafts, movies and chess.

"We're talking to three different art teachers right now at different levels, art kids, sort of adult, painting and watercolors," Taylor says.

More information

On Feb. 1, the School of American Music plans to start teaching classes at the new Three Oaks Arts & Education Center, 14 E. Maple St., Three Oaks. Those interested in volunteering or either teaching or taking classes should contact Garth Taylor at 409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com.

The School of American Music will be the operating body for the Arts & Education Center.

"We're taking it on as an extension of our mission and our ability to have a well-run organization," Taylor says. "Most of the people there will be people coming forward who want to teach classes or do something extra."

The school, however, will retain its current classrooms on the second floor of the Three Oaks Township Public Library.

"We absolutely love that space – it's perfect for the one-on-one teaching classes," Taylor says. "The boat wouldn't float if we couldn't keep those classes."

The new space at 14 E. Maple St. will instead house group classes, which can sometimes be a bit noisy. "Not a good thing to do in a library," he adds.

The current Three Oaks Village Hall is located in Dewey Cannon Park, a site known for its summertime Saturday evening Music in the Park concerts. Village offices will be making the short move to the space inside an historic building at 21 N. Elm St. formerly occupied by the Berrien County magistrate. The police fepartment will remain in the village-owned Maple Street building.

"We're all really excited about the new Arts & Education Center," school executive director and guitar instructor Priscilla Lee Hellenga says. "It's a community center that's been long in need and we're just so proud to be part of this."

See **SCHOOL**, page D2

David Johnson / For The Herald-Palladium

Elin Blake of Three Oaks, a School of American Music student, performs on violin during the Dec. 14 "Holiday Harmonies" sing-along at the New Buffalo Township Public Library. In February, the school will open the new Three Oaks Arts & Education Center.

Nightlife

Nightlife appears Thursdays in The Herald-Palladium. Cover charges are noted where applicable. Schedules subject to change. Contact venues for the most up-to-date information.

Restaurants, bars and night clubs submitting announcements should include time and admission costs. Submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday to appear in the following Thursday. Email to Focus@TheHP.com, fax to 429-4398 or mail to Focus Department, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085. For questions, call Jeremy D. Bonfiglio at 932-0364.

221 MAIN RESTAURANT & COCKTAIL HOUSE: 221 Main St., St. Joseph; 982-4000 or www.PlayersStJoe.com: FRIDAY/SATURDAY – DJ dancing, 10 p.m. WEDNESDAY – Black Tie New Year's Eve with DJ dancing, 10 p.m.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 105: 645 Paw Paw Ave., Benton Harbor; 487-8461: FRIDAY – Oldies Blast Dance (1950s-'60s) with **Rockin' Randy**, 7-10 p.m., $2. WEDNESDAY – New Year's Eve Party with **Rockin' Randy**, 7 p.m., $10 individual or $15 per couple.

ARROWHEAD BAR & GRILL: 20 W. Main St., Hartford; 621-4100: FRIDAY/SATURDAY – Karaoke, 9 p.m.

BABE'S LOUNGE: 565 Riverview Drive, Benton Harbor; 925-3787: FRIDAY – Karaoke, 9 p.m. WEDNESDAY – New Year's Eve Karaoke, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

BLACK RIVER TAVERN: 403 Phoenix St., South Haven; 637-4837 or www.blackrivertavern.com: SATURDAY – **Reviving The Era**, 10 p.m. WEDNESDAY – New Year's Eve Party featuring **The Real Fantastics**, 10 p.m.

BLUE CHIP CASINO: 777 Blue Chip Drive, Michigan City, Ind.; 888-879-7711 or www.bluechipcasino.com: TONIGHT – **Rebel Pride Band**, 5 p.m. FRIDAY – **Zane's Way**, 7 p.m.; **DJ Double E and Friends**, 11 p.m.; **Ear Candy**, 11 p.m. SATURDAY – **Tropixplosion**, 2:30 p.m.; **80s Enough**, 7 p.m.; **Too White Crew**, 11 p.m., $5; **Dr. Feelgood and The 80s Babies**, 11:30 p.m. SUNDAY – **Middle of The Road**, 1 p.m.; **Hoosier Highway**, 6 p.m. MONDAY – Wine & Canvas, 6:30 p.m., $35. WEDNESDAY – **Sheryl & Say Yes**, 3 p.m.; **The Neverly Brothers**, 7 p.m.; **Lt. Dan's New Legs**, 11 p.m., $20; **Sweet Diezel Jenkins**, 11:30 p.m. JAN. 1 – **Classical Blast**, 1 p.m.

THE BUCK BURGERS & BREW: 412 State St., St. Joseph; 281-0320 or eatatthebuck.com: FRIDAY – **Ed Skjordal**, 7 p.m. SATURDAY – **Lindsey Mierau**, 7 p.m. MONDAY – Team Trivia, 7 p.m.

CHOCOLATE CAFÉ: 300 State St., St. Joseph; 985-9866: FRIDAY – **Mockingbird**, 7 p.m. SATURDAY – **Attila Trio Plus**, 7 p.m. WEDNESDAY – **Attila Trio Plus**, 7 p.m.

CRAVINGS BISTRO & BREW PUB: 1599 Mall Drive, Benton Harbor; 934-9700: DEC. 31 – New Year's Eve Celebration with **Exit 41**, 8 p.m.

THE CURVE INN: 10336 Blue Star Highway, South Haven; 637-5070: FRIDAY/SATURDAY – Big Bear karaoke, 9 p.m. WEDNESDAY – **Blue Star Highway**, 9 p.m.

CZAR'S 505: 505 Pleasant St., St. Joseph; 983-1166 or www.czars.com: FRIDAY – **Mr. Blotto**, 10 p.m., $5. SATURDAY – **Duke Tumatoe**, 10 p.m., $5. DEC. 31 – **Smashing Gravity** and **Fusion**, 9 p.m., $20.

HARD ROCK CAFÉ AT FOUR WINDS CASINO RESORT: 11111 Wilson Road, New Buffalo; 866-494-6371 or www.fourwindscasino.com: FRIDAY – **Hipposonics**, 10 p.m. SATURDAY – **Libido Funk Circus**, 10 p.m. WEDNESDAY– **Sushi Roll**, 10:30 p.m.

HAWGSVILLE SALOON: 365 N Main St, Watervliet; 201-7120: FRIDAY/SATURDAY – Karaoke with **Dale Owen**, 9 p.m. WEDNESDAY – New Year's Eve Party with **DJ Laurie** and Friends, 9 p.m.

HIDDEN POINTE HALL: 1050 Nickerson Ave., Benton Harbor; 926-1358: WEDNESDAY – New Year's Eve Dance with DJ **Dale Owen**, 7:30 p.m.-2 a.m., $10.

JOURNEYMAN DISTILLERY: 109 Generations Drive, Three Oaks; 820-2050 or www.journeymandistillery.com: FRIDAY – **Keith Scott**, 1 p.m.; Journeyman Live Open Mic with **Blake Vissing**, 7 p.m.

LAKEHOUSE BY CRAVINGS: 3029 Lakeshore Drive, St. Joseph; 982-8020 or lakehousebycravings.com: FRIDAY – **Mike Talbot**, 6:30 p.m. SATURDAY – **Dave Carlock**, 6:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY – New Year's Eve Party with DJ dancing, 6:30 p.m.

THE LIVERY: 190 Fifth St., Benton Harbor; 925-8760 or www.liverybrew.com: SUNDAY – Irish Session hosted by **Rick Willey** and **Katie Montoya**, 2-5 p.m. WEDNESDAY – Team Trivia, 7:30 p.m.

MCCOY CREEK TAVERN: 215 E. Front St., Buchanan; 695-2233: FRIDAY – Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.

MICKEY'S PUB: 1007 Main St., St. Joseph; 983-0900: WEDNESDAY – **D-Jen**, **Big Brutal**, **KAOS**, **May'ne**, **Kilo G**, **Sin Knight and Bam Bam**, **2TurnT and Buckwild**, **M.M.F**, **H.A.M.G**, **Mighty Mitten Music**, and **Main Street Ryderz**, 9 p.m., $5.

SAUGATUCK BREWING COMPANY: 2948 Blue Star Highway, Douglas; 857-7222 or saugatuckbrewing.com: SATURDAY – **Rich Burkholder**, 6:30 p.m. TUESDAY – Team trivia, 7 p.m. WEDNESDAY – New Year's Eve Party with **Big Boss Blues Band**, 6:30 p.m.

TOSI'S RESTAURANT: 4337 Ridge Road, Stevensville; 429-3689 or www.tosis.com: SATURDAY – **Anna James**, 7 p.m.

Hot tickets

January

Fleetwood Mac: Jan. 20, Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids

John Mellencamp: Jan. 21, Morris Performing Arts Center, South Bend

Less Than Jake & Reel Big Fish: Jan. 21, House of Blues, Chicago

Sam Smith: Jan. 22, Masonic Temple, Detroit

Kathy Griffin: Jan. 22, MotorCity Casino Hotel, Detroit

Seether & Papa Roach: Jan. 23, The Fillmore, Detroit

Cowboy Mouth: Jan. 23, House of Blues, Chicago

Sam Smith: Jan. 23, UIC Pavilion, Chicago

Chris Tucker: Jan. 24, The Chicago Theatre

The String Cheese Incident: Jan. 29-31, Aragon Ballroom, Chicago

Ann Arbor Folk Festival: Jan. 30-31, The Ark, Ann Arbor

Spandau Ballet: Jan. 30, House of Blues, Chicago

Wynonna Judd: Jan. 31, Star Plaza Theatre, Merrillville, Ind.

Umphrey's McGee: Jan. 31, The Fillmore, Detroit

Reverend Horton Heat: Jan. 31, Magic Stick, Detroit

Spandau Ballet: Jan. 31, Masonic Temple, Detroit

February

August Burns Red: Feb. 1, Saint Andrews Hall, Detroit

Marilyn Manson: Feb. 3, The Fillmore, Detroit

Linkin Park: Feb. 4, Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids

Aaron Lewis: Feb. 5, MotorCity Casino Hotel, Detroit

Billy Idol: Feb. 6, The Fillmore, Detroit

Luke Bryan: Feb. 10, Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids

Jason Isbell: Feb. 13, State Theatre, Kalamazoo

G. Love & Special Sauce: Feb. 13, House of Blues, Chicago

Fleetwood Mac: Feb. 14, Allstate Arena, Rosemont, Ill.

Sinbad: Feb. 14, The Chicago Theatre

Barry Manilow: Feb. 14, United Center, Chicago

Barry Manilow: Feb. 15, The Palace of Auburn Hills, Auburn Hills, Mich.

Rick Springfield: Feb. 15, MotorCity Casino Hotel, Detroit

John Mellencamp: Feb. 17-18, The Chicago Theatre

Enrique Iglesias & Pitbull: Feb. 20, Allstate Arena, Rosemont, Ill.

Nickelback: Feb. 24, Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids

Aaron Lewis: Feb. 27, The Venue at Horseshoe Casino, Hammond, Ind.

Vanessa Williams: Feb. 28, DeVos Performance Hall, Grand Rapids

Tickets can be purchased through venues or, in most cases, through Ticketmaster by calling 800-745-3000 or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

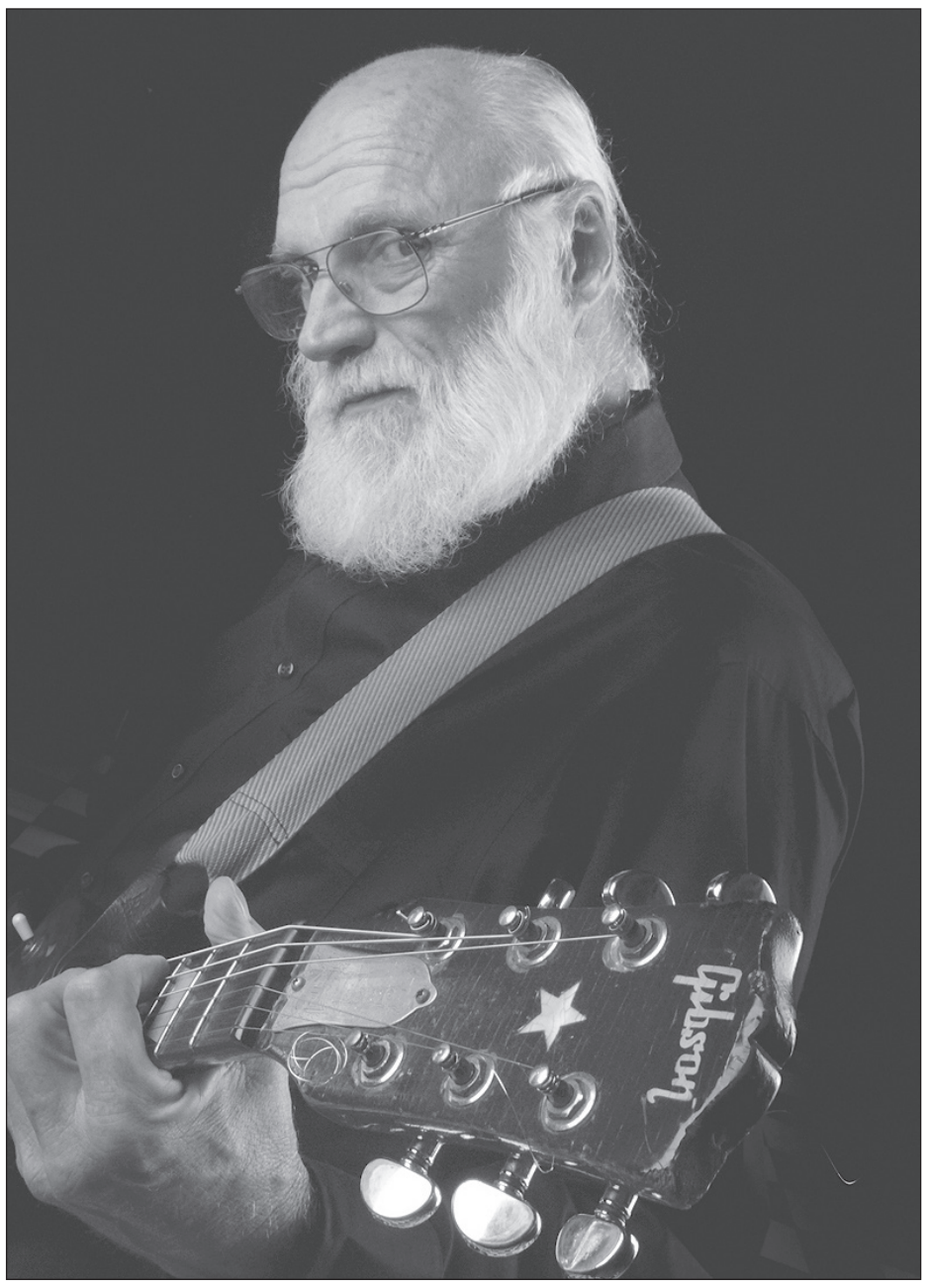

Photo provided

Bluesman Duke Tumatoe will perform Saturday at Czar's 505 in St. Joseph. Tumatoe brings a unique perspective to the blues. "I think people mistakenly have this idea that the blues is this terribly sad, 'I can't go on' kind of music," he says. "There's certainly that element to it, but more often than not, there's a humorous, self-deprecating angle to it."

Tumatoe

From page D1

Tumatoe learned the drums at age 10 and moved to guitar not long after that first encounter with Waters. He began playing club dates in and around Chicago in the 1960s, and both joined and left the band that would become REO Speedwagon in 1969.

In 1970, he formed Duke Tumatoe & The All-Star Frogs, a band that toured so relentlessly over its 13-year span that it released just three albums – "Red Pepper Hot" (1976), "Naughty Child" (1980) and "Back to Chicago" (1982) – before disbanding in 1983. His next project, Duke Tumatoe & The Power Trio, formed in 1984, recording its first album, "Duke's Up," that same year.

Tumatoe and his band, which currently features Jim Hill on keyboards, AJ Jones on bass and Joe Maddox on drums, have released another 10 albums since, most notably the John Fogerty-produced live record "I Like My Job" (1988), the all-instrumental release "Picks & Sticks" (1997), the raunchy seasonal disc "It's Christmas (Let's Have Sex)" (2001) and "I Just Want to Be Rich" (2010). That latest collection, which Tumatoe describes as "upbeat and full of mischief," features his own reworked classics such as "I Got One Left" and "You Never Know a Woman," as well as "Barbeque," an unplugged treat that celebrates chicken and ribs; "Bionic Tumatoe," a blues jam played in the style of Screamin' Jay Hawkins; and the title track, which laments the universal refrain, "I Just Want to Be Rich."

The good-time blues musician gifted with an ability to churn out catchy refrains also is known for his performances on the nationally syndicated radio program "The Bob & Tom Show," which can be heard locally on WZUU-FM (92.5) out of Kalamazoo and WHFB-FM (99.9) out of South Bend. Tumatoe became friends with Tom Griswold – the Tom of Bob & Tom – in 1983 after appearing on the then-local broadcast to perform the song "Lord Help Our Colts." For many years he returned to the program each fall singing updated versions of his "NFL Song" every week on the air.

"I don't do it as much as I used to. This year we probably did about 28 football songs for different teams around the country," Tumatoe says. "It gives me a venue where I can be as whimsical as my mind will allow. I do it because it's fun, but there's a difference between doing these knock-off things and something you play 200 dates a year."

On his as-yet-untitled 2015 release, for example, Tumatoe has scrapped the vocals altogether on the new instrumental, "Whispers," which is an ode to his native Chicago.

"You grow up in a town like Chicago and then you travel and you realize that each place has its own feel to it," Tumatoe says. "It's got a kind of night time, walking down the streets of Chicago feel to it, and it's just really fun to play."

For the album, which is tentatively slated for an early spring release, Tumatoe is not only cultivating new material, but delving into the rich catalog of his musical idols. He's already recorded versions of Bo Diddley's 'Before You Accuse Me," Hound Dog Taylor's "Give Me Back My Wig," and Lucille Bogan's "Sloppy Drunk Blues."

"Covering them is a new thing for me, but it's amazing if you open up your mind what you can come up with," Tumatoe says. "Obviously, I have great respect for the original versions of all of them, but I think people mistakenly have this idea that the blues is this terribly sad, 'I can't go on' kind of music. There's certainly that element to it, but more often than not, there's a humorous, self-deprecating angle to it. Listen to Willie Dixon's songs, such as '29 Ways,' or Bo Diddley's 'I'm a Man.' They are not taking themselves too seriously. Even the bravado is so over the top that it's done with a sense of playfulness."

It's that same sense of playfulness that has defined Tumatoe's own career.

"Initially, I think it was just the way I looked at things," he says. "After a while it becomes a conscious choice to look at things from a situation where you can laugh at yourself."

Contact: jbonfiglio@TheHP.com, 932-0364, Twitter: @HPBonfiglio

If you go

Who: Duke Tumatoe

When: 10 p.m. Saturday

Where: Czar's 505, 505 Pleasant St., St. Joseph

How much: $5

Contact: 983-1166 or www.czars.com

Artist info: www.duketumatoe.com

School

From page D1

Since opening in 2012, Taylor says, the School of American Music has grown its faculty to 10 people with more than "100 students coming in the door to take classes" each year. Two of those students, sisters Elin Blake on violin and Meredith Blake on guitar, performed Dec. 14 in the Pokagon Room at the New Buffalo Township Public Library as part of the School's "Holiday Harmonies" sing-along concert.

Elin says she's learned bluegrass and some improv at the school, adding that live performances help out a lot with the bonus of being "a lot of fun."

Alyson Payne, a voice instructor, says the group does a lot of live performances during the summer and performed at Three Oaks United Methodist Church just two days prior to the library event. The Dec. 14 ensemble featured singers Payne and Hellenga, guitarist/singer Taylor, the Blake sisters, Stuart Beach on mandolin and occasional vocals, and Charles Adinolfi on bass.

"Students need to perform to get better," Payne says, "so we rope them into playing."

Payne also teaches Spanish at Lake Michigan College, so she's considering also doing some of that at the new Arts & Education Center.

"It's a really exciting time to be in a project like this because we're just envisioning rainbows right now," Taylor adds.

'Doctor Who' offers different kind of Santa Claus

By TISH WELLS
McClatchy Washington Bureau (TNS)

"Do you believe in Santa Claus?" You may have an opinion after this year's "Doctor Who" Christmas Special.

Like all of Steven Moffat's best writing, it's a multilayered episode to be enjoyed by children and discussed between adults. There are moments where you'll laugh at the humor (queue the slinkies), and moments to make you cry at the pathos.

It will be broadcast Christmas Day at 9 p.m. on BBC America.

Moffat said cheerfully on a press call, despite fighting a cold, that he defines "Last Christmas" as a "big, optimistic show that does of course have monsters that want to commit genocide on the entire universe."

This will be Peter Capaldi's first official Christmas since he took over the part in the last few seconds of 2013. Capaldi's Doctor is older, grumpy and a disbeliever in myths and legends – including Santa Claus.

At the end of the latest series, the Doctor (Peter Capaldi) has broken up with his latest travelling companion, Clara Oswald (Jenna Coleman), leaving them both unhappy and misunderstanding each other. Clara is also grieving for the loss of her boyfriend.

There are overtones of the "Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry, a rearing reindeer (hey-ho, Silver!), a touch of Daoism, a song from the glam-rock '70s, and a stellar score from the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

"In as far as writing (is) ever enjoyable," Moffat said, "I think being able to write dialogue between the Doctor and Santa Claus is as good as it gets."

In brief

Burlesque show closes 2014, The Acorn season

THREE OAKS — Super Happy Funtime Burlesque closes 2014 at 9 p.m. Wednesday with its annual New Year's Eve show at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive.

The infamous Grand Rapids-based burlesque troupe will ring in 2015 with a night of bawdy comedy, wit, song and dance.

General admission is $25. Limited VIP tickets of $50 includes preferred seating as well as two drinks, small plates and desserts from 7:30- 9 p.m.

This is also the final show of The Acorn's season. Its as-yet-to-be-announced 2015 season opens in the spring.

For more information, call 756-3879 or visit www.acorntheater.com.

South Haven Art Fair deadline approaching

SOUTH HAVEN — The early entry deadline is Wednesday for the 57th annual South Haven Art Fair, which is held July 4-5, 2015, in Stanley Johnston Park.

The art fair typically attracts crowds of nearly 40,000 people, and 100 regional and national artists to the weekend event.

The 2015 art fair includes an optional Friday set up with direct vehicle access to assigned booth sites for unloading and loading artwork. There also will be overnight security on both Friday and Saturday nights.

The application fee is $20 (with code EBIRD) for early bird entries, and $30 after Wednesday. The final deadline is Feb. 4, 2015. Artists can apply on ZAPPlication.org.

For more information, call 637-1041 or email southhavenartfair@gmail.com.

This week | Planning ahead

All times are Michigan time

Today

Merry Christmas!

Friday

Keith Scott: 1 p.m., Journeyman Distillery, 109 Generations Drive, Three Oaks; free; 820-2050 or www.journeymandistillery.com

Mike Talbot: 6:30 p.m., Lakehouse By Cravings, 3029 Lakeshore Drive, St. Joseph; free; 982-8020 or lakehousebycravings.com

Mockingbird: 7 p.m., Chocolate Café, 300 State St., St. Joseph; free; 985-9866

Anna James: 7 p.m., Tosi's Restaurant, 4337 Ridge Road, Stevensville; free; 429-3689 or www.tosis.com

Journeyman Live Open Mic with Blake Vissing: 7 p.m., Journeyman Distillery, 109 Generations Drive, Three Oaks; free; 820-2050 or www.journeymandistillery.com

Mr. Blotto: 10 p.m., Czar's 505, 505 Pleasant St., St. Joseph; $5; 983-1166 or www.czars.com

Saturday

Dave Carlock: 6:30 p.m., Lakehouse By Cravings, 3029 Lakeshore Drive, St. Joseph; free; 982-8020 or lakehousebycravings.com

Attila Trio Plus: 7 p.m., Chocolate Café, 300 State St., St. Joseph; free; 985-9866

Duke Tumatoe: 10 p.m., Czar's 505, 505 Pleasant St., St. Joseph; $5; 983-1166 or www.czars.com

Sunday

Irish Session hosted by Rick Willey and Katie Montoya: 2-5 p.m., The Livery, 190 Fifth St., Benton Harbor; free; 925-8760 or www.liverybrew.com

Monday

Jim Brickman: 7:30 p.m., Morris Performing Arts Center, 211 N. Michigan St., South Bend; $29.50-$51; 574-235-9190, 800-537-6415 or www.morriscenter.org

Tuesday

Open Mic: 8 p.m., The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks; free; 756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com

Wednesday

Diana VandeWater: 5:30 p.m., Restaurant Toulouse, 220 Culver St., Saugatuck; free; 857-1561

Attila Trio Plus: 7 p.m., Chocolate Café, 300 State St., St. Joseph; free; 985-9866

Keith Scott: 7 p.m., Frankie's Place, 16036 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier; free; 469-9865 or www.frankiesotherplace.net

NYE 2015 with DJ Tim Sewcyck: 8 p.m., The Inn at Harbor Shores, 800 Whitwam Drive, Benton Harbor; $50; 983-1111 or innatharborshores.com

NYE 2015 with DJ Scott Fuce: 8 p.m., Lakehouse By Cravings, 3029 Lakeshore Drive, St. Joseph; free; 982-8020 or lakehousebycravings.com

Exit 41: 8 p.m., Cravings Bistro & Brew Pub, 1599 Mall Drive, Benton Harbor; free; 934-9700

Ronn Barany and John Derado: 8 p.m., Lakeside Inn, 15251 Lakeshore Road, Lakeside; free, reservations suggested; 469-0600, 469-4511 or www.lakesideinns.com

D-Jen, Big Brutal, KAOS, May'ne, Kilo G, Sin Knight and Bam Bam, 2TurnT and Buckwild, M.M.F, H.A.M.G, Mighty Mitten Music, and **Main Street Ryderz :** 9 p.m., Mickey's Pub, 1007 Main St., St. Joseph; $5; 983-0900

Super Happy Funtime Burlesque New Year's Eve: 9 p.m., The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks; $25-$50; 756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com

Blue Star Highway: 9 p.m., The Curve Inn, 10336 Blue Star Highway, South Haven; free; 637-5070

Smashing Gravity and Fusion: 10 p.m., Czar's 505, 505 Pleasant St., St. Joseph; $20; 983-1166 or www.czars.com

Jan. 1

Comedy night with Fred Potter & James Hodge: 9 p.m., Czar's 505, 505 Pleasant St., St. Joseph; $5; 983-1166 or www.czars.com

Jan. 2

Jeff Brown: 7 p.m., Cravings Bistro & Brew Pub, 1599 Mall Drive, Benton Harbor; free; 934-9700

Di Machine Reggae Band featuring Bunny Jackson: 10 p.m., Czar's 505, 505 Pleasant St., St. Joseph; $5; 983-1166 or www.czars.com

Jan. 3

Mike Weir: 7 p.m., Cravings Bistro & Brew Pub, 1599 Mall Drive, Benton Harbor; free; 934-9700

North American Brass Company: 7:30 p.m., Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph; $10, $8 for students and seniors, free for children 12 and younger; 983-3688 or www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Brian Randall Band: 10 p.m., Czar's 505, 505 Pleasant St., St. Joseph; $5; 983-1166 or www.czars.com

Jan. 5

NTAA Open Stage: 7 p.m., The Livery, 190 Fifth St., Benton Harbor; free; 925-8760 or www.liverybrew.com

Jan. 7

"Catherine Chmiel-Goetzinger: Birds, Bees, Dogs and Trees"; **"Dorothy Tristan: Café con Leche, Por Favor"**; **"Tami McClellan: Watercolors"** and "**Surface Reactions: Pottery by Lynda Price, Helen Kloswick, Janis Schibley and Ann Flannery":** exhibition opening, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Buchanan Art Center, 117 W. Front St., Buchanan; free; through Feb. 21; 697-4005 or www.buchananartcenter.org

Jan. 9

Dan Savoie: 7 p.m., Cravings Bistro & Brew Pub, 1599 Mall Drive, Benton Harbor; free; 934-9700

"Educating Rita": 8 p.m., The Studio, Twin City Players Campus, 600 W. Glenlord Road, St. Joseph; $15, $12 for seniors; 429-0400 or twincityplayers.org

Jan. 10

"Second Sight/Insight II": exhibition opening, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St. Kalamazoo; $5, $2 for students, and free for members, children age 12 and younger, and active military personnel; through May 10, 2015; 349-7775 or www.kiarts.org

The Russian National Ballet Theatre presents "Don Quixote": 4 p.m., Lake Michigan College Mendel Center Mainstage Theatre, 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor; $34-$45; 927-1221 or www.lmcmainstage.org

"HIS Creation": 6 and 8 p.m., Andrews University's Howard Performing Arts Center, 4160 E Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs; $8, $5 for students and children; 471-3560, 888-467-6442 or howard.andrews.edu

Larry Johnson: 7 p.m., Cravings Bistro & Brew Pub, 1599 Mall Drive, Benton Harbor; free; 934-9700

San, Emily & Jacob: 7:30 p.m., Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph; $10, $8 for students and seniors, free for children 12 and younger; 983-3688 or www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Jack Mack: 7:30 p.m., Journeyman Distillery, 109 Generations Drive, Three Oaks; free; 820-2050 or www.journeymandistillery.com

"Educating Rita": see Jan. 9

Jan. 11

David Van Dyke: 2 p.m., Union Coffee House, 115 E. Front St., Buchanan; free; 409-7004 or www.unioncoffeehouse.com

"Catherine Chmiel-Goetzinger: Birds, Bees, Dogs and Trees"; **"Dorothy Tristan: Café con Leche, Por Favor"**; **"Tami McClellan: Watercolors"** and "**Surface Reactions: Pottery by Lynda Price, Helen Kloswick, Janis Schibley and Ann Flannery":** opening reception, 2-4 p.m., Buchanan Art Center, 117 W. Front St., Buchanan; free; through Feb. 21; 697-4005 or www.buchananartcenter.org

"Educating Rita": 2 p.m.. see Jan. 9

Jan. 16

Exit 41: 7 p.m., Cravings Bistro & Brew Pub, 1599 Mall Drive, Benton Harbor; free; 934-9700

"Educating Rita": see Jan. 9

Jan. 17

"Redefining The Multiple": exhibition opening, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St. Kalamazoo; $5, $2 for students, and free for members, children age 12 and younger, and active military personnel; through April 26; 349-7775 or www.kiarts.org

The Bucktown Ramblers: 7:30 p.m., Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph; $10, $8 for students and seniors, free for children 12 and younger; 983-3688 or www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Katthouse: 7:30 p.m., Journeyman Distillery, 109 Generations Drive, Three Oaks; free; 820-2050 or www.journeymandistillery.com

Henhouse Prowlers: 8 p.m., The Livery, 190 Fifth St., Benton Harbor; $8-$10; 925-8760 or www.liverybrew.com

"Educating Rita": see Jan. 9

Jan. 18

Folias Flute and Guitar Duo with Christopher Martin: Sunday Classical Concert Series, 2 p.m., Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids; free with admission ($8, $5 for children age 6-17, and free for children age 5 and younger, and GRAM members); 616-831-1000 or artmuseumgr.org

The Filharmonic: 7 p.m., Andrews University's Howard Performing Arts Center, 4160 E. Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs; $15, $5 for students; 471-3560, 888-467-6442 or howard.andrews.edu

Bonerama: 7:30 p.m., The Livery, 190 Fifth St., Benton Harbor; $20-$25; 925-8760 or www.liverybrew.com

"Educating Rita": 2 p.m.. see Jan. 9

Jan. 19

Allison Svoboda and Cydney Lewis: Creativity Revealed Series, 7 p.m., Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck; free, but space is limited; 857-2399 or www.sc4a.org

Jan. 21

John Mellencamp: 7:30 p.m., Morris Performing Arts Center, 211 N. Michigan St., South Bend; $42.50-$252; 574-235-9190, 800-537-6415 or www.morriscenter.org

Jan. 23

"K.V. Ratham Photography," "Indiana Women's Caucus for Art," and **"Mary Amador's Drawings / Pastels and Benjamin Frank's Ceramics":** opening reception, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph; free; through Feb. 26; 983-3688 or www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Wild Ponies: Living Room Series, 7 p.m., Hanson Theatre, Lake Michigan College Mendel Center, 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor; $15; 927-1221 or www.lmcmainstage.org

Exit 41: 7 p.m., Cravings Bistro & Brew Pub, 1599 Mall Drive, Benton Harbor; free; 934-9700

Jan. 24

Jeff Brown: 7 p.m., Cravings Bistro & Brew Pub, 1599 Mall Drive, Benton Harbor; free; 934-9700

Neil Jacobs: 7:30 p.m., Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph; $10, $8 for students and seniors, free for children 12 and younger; 983-3688 or www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Michael Koch, Daniel Deitrich and Michael Buratto: 8 p.m., The Livery, 190 Fifth St., Benton Harbor; $5; 925-8760 or www.liverybrew.com

Jan. 25

Irish Session hosted by Rick Willey and Katie Montoya: 2-5 p.m., The Livery, 190 Fifth St., Benton Harbor; free; 925-8760 or www.liverybrew.com

Ang Li: Hempy Keyboard Series, 2 p.m., Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck; $TBA; 857-2399 or www.sc4a.org

Manitou Trio: Sunday Classical Concert Series, 2 p.m., Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids; free with admission ($8, $5 for children age 6-17, and free for children age 5 and younger, and GRAM members); 616-831-1000 or artmuseumgr.org

David Phelps: 7 p.m., Andrews University's Howard Performing Arts Center, 4160 E. Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs; $25-$30, $15 for students; 471-3560, 888-467-6442 or howard.andrews.edu

Mr. Blotto

Photo provided

The Chicago-based jam band Mr. Blotto, fronted by Paul Bolger, performs Friday at Czar's 505, 505 Pleasant St., St. Joseph. Formed in 1991, the band has covered artists as diverse as The Flaming Lips, Grateful Dead, Willie Nelson and The Velvet Underground as well as five albums of original material. Admission is $5. For more information, call 983-1166 or visit www.czars.com.

Ongoing

Art exhibits

"Lana Wilson: Colormania": through Tuesday; **"Here and There":** through Wednesday; Schaller Gallery, 210 State St., St. Joseph; free; 983-7404 or www.schallergallery.com

"World War I: The War to End All Wars" and **"Answering the Call: The Olivers and World War I":** through Wednesday; **"Polished in Public, Fierce on the Field: The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League":** through May 31, 2015; **"From Astrophysics to Zebrafish: 150 Years of Science at Notre Dame":** through Aug. 2, 2015; Center for History, 552 S. Chapin St., South Bend; $8, $6.50 for seniors, $5 for youth, and free for members; 574-235-9664 or www.centerforhistory.org

"Jessica Joy London: A State of Wonder": through Jan. 2, 2015; **"Re-Envisioning The Nutcracker":** through Jan. 11, 2015; **"Marks Of Genius: 100 Extraordinary Drawings From The Minneapolis Institute Of Arts":** through Jan. 18, 2015; Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids; $8, $5 for children age 6-17, and free for children age 5 and younger, and GRAM members; 616-831-1000 or artmuseumgr.org

Gingerbread Holiday Open House: through Jan. 3, 2015; Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph; free; 983-3688 or www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

"A Collector's Eye: Works from the Collection of Sheila and Jim Bridenstine" and **"Double Take: Artists Respond to the Collection":** through Jan. 4, 2015; **"How to Return? Contemporary Chinese Photography":** through March 8, 2015; **"Wired and Wrapped: Sculpture by Seungmo Park":** through March 15, 2015; Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St. Kalamazoo; $5, $2 for students, and free for members, children age 12 and younger, and active military personnel; 349-7775 or www.kiarts.org

"Jason Cytacki: Small Vistas, Big Myths": through Jan. 4, 2015; **"Window on the West: Views From the American Frontier":** through Jan. 11, 2015; **"Sightlines":** through May 10, 2015; South Bend Museum of Art, 120 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend; $5 suggested donation; 574-235-9102 or southbendart.org

"Hands-On Harley-Davidson": through Jan. 5, 2015; Lou and Warren Gast Traveling Exhibit Gallery, Curious Kids' Discovery Zone, 333 Broad St., St. Joseph; $6, free for members and children age 3 and younger; 982-8500 or www.curiouskidsmuseum.org

"Comics & Code" and **"It's Not Just Your Sunday Comic Strip":** through Jan. 10, 2015; Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., Michigan City, Ind; free; 219-874-4900 or www.lubeznikcenter.org

"Arnold Newman: Luminaries of the Twentieth Century in Art, Politics and Culture" and **"Lucy Slivinski: Flashfield"**: through Jan. 11, 2015; **"Biennial Sculpture Invitational":** through Sept. 25, 2015 (outdoors); Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph; free; 983-0271 or krasl.org

"Kristin Hosbein: Luminosity": through Jan. 23, 2015; ARS Art & Culture Center, 147 Fifth St., Benton Harbor; free; 208-4409 or www.annarussoart.com

"Dave Baker: Sentinels": through Jan. 25, 2015; **"Sculpture Fernwood":** through Summer 2015 (outdoors); **"Patrick Dougherty: Take Five!":** through Summer 2016 (outdoors); Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles; free with regular admission ($8, $6 for seniors, $4 for youth ages 13-18, $3 for children ages 6-12, free for those 5 and younger); 695-6491 or www.fernwoodbotanical.org

"Southwest Michigan in the Civil War": through Jan. 31, 2015; **"Benton Harbor's Boat Building Industry":** through Summer 2015; The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center at The Priscilla U. Byrns Center, 601 Main St., St. Joseph; $5, $3 for children 17 and younger, free for museum members; 983-1191 or www.theheritagemcc.org

"Permeated Surfaces": through Feb. 6, 2015; Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck; free; 857-2399 or www.sc4a.org

"Looking Forward: The Artwork of Kirk Newman": through Feb. 8, 2015; Water Street Gallery, 98 Center St., Douglas; free; 857-8485 or www.waterstreetgallery.com

"Winter Focus: A Group Photography Exhibition": through Feb. 9, 2015; The Gallery at The Inn at Harbor Shores, 800 Whitwam Drive, Benton Harbor; free; 983-1111 or www.innatharborshores.com

"Mysteries Beneath the Waves: Wrecks of the Sunset Coast": through May 2016; Michigan Maritime Museum, 260 Dyckman Ave., South Haven; $8, $7 for seniors, $5 for children, free for children 4 and younger and members; 637-8078 or www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org

Film

"Birdman": 6 p.m. Friday-Tuesday, and 9 p.m. Wednesday-Jan. 2, 3 and 9 p.m. Jan. 3, and 3 p.m. Jan. 4; **"The Overnighters":** 9 p.m. Friday and Tuesday, and 6:30 p.m. Jan. 1, and 12:30 p.m. Jan. 3; **"The Invisible Front":** 12:30 p.m. Saturday and Jan. 4; **"Whiplash":** 3 and 9 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; **"The Theory Of Everything":** 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 2-5, and 3 p.m. Jan. 1; Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks; $10, $8 students and seniors, free for those age 100 or older; 756-3522 or vickerstheatre.com

This Week, Ongoing and Planning Ahead entertainment calendars are published Thursdays in The Herald-Palladium. The deadline to submit items is 5 p.m. Friday. We reserve the right to edit for space and style. Email announcements to: focus@TheHP.com or send to Calendar, Focus Department, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085.

Now playing

New releases

'Big Eyes'
A drama centered on the awakening of the painter Margaret Keane, her phenomenal success in the 1950s, and the subsequent legal difficulties she had with her husband, who claimed credit for her works in the 1960s. Stars Amy Adams, Christoph Waltz and Krysten Ritter. Rated PG-13 for thematic elements and brief strong language. Running time: 104 minutes.

'The Gambler'
A literature college professor and high stakes gambler runs afoul of a loan shark and his bodyguard-like gangsters while he has an affair with one of his students. Stars Mark Wahlberg, Jessica Lange, and Brie Larson. Rated R for language throughout, and for some sexuality and nudity. Running time: 112 minutes.

'Into The Woods'
Based on the Broadway musical, a witch conspires to teach important lessons to various characters of popular children's stories including Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk and Rapunzel. Stars Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, Anna Kendrick, Chris Pine, and Johnny Depp. Rated PG for thematic elements, fantasy action and peril, and some suggestive material. Running time: 124 minutes.

'Unbroken'
A chronicle of the life of Louis Zamperini, an Olympic runner who was taken prisoner by Japanese forces during World War II. Stars Jai Courtney, Domhnall Gleeson, and Jack O'Connell. Rated PG-13 for war violence including intense sequences of brutality, and for brief language. Running time: 137 minutes.

Still showing

'Annie'
A hard-nosed tycoon running for mayor of New York City takes in a down-on-her-luck orphan in a bid to boost his popularity in this update of the Depression-set stage and screen musical. Stars Jamie Foxx, Quvenzhane Wallis and Rose Byrne. Rated PG for some mild language and rude humor. Running time: 118 minutes.

'Big Hero 6'
In this animated film, a tech prodigy enlists an inflatable robot and his friends to help save the city of San Fransokyo from a supervillain. Features the voices of Scott Adsit, Ryan Potter and Daniel Henney. Rated PG for action and peril, some rude humor, and thematic elements. Running time: 108 minutes.

'Exodus: Gods and Kings'
The defiant leader Moses rises up against the Pharaoh Ramses and leads his people out of plague-stricken Egypt toward freedom. Stars Christian Bale, Joel Edgerton and John Turturro. Rated PG-13 for violence including battle sequences and intense images. Running time: 150 minutes.

'The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies'
The hobbit Bilbo Baggins and his dwarf companions battle the dragon Smaug and the forces of the dark lord Sauron. Stars Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman, Richard Armitage and Evangeline Lilly. Also in 3-D and D-BOX. Rated PG-13 for extended sequences of intense fantasy action violence, and frightening images. Running time: 144 minutes.

'The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1'
The reluctant revolutionary Katniss Everdeen fights to save a dear friend and lead a nation against an authoritarian regime in the opening chapter of a two-part finale. Stars Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth and Woody Harrelson. Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, some disturbing images and thematic material. Running time: 123 minutes.

'Interstellar'
As mankind's time on Earth comes to an end, a team of astronauts travel through a wormhole in search of a new home for humanity. Stars Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain and Michael Caine. Rated PG-13 for some intense perilous action and brief strong language. Running time: 169 minutes.

'Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb'
A museum security guard travels the globe on a quest to save the magic of an ancient artifact that brings history to life. Stars Ben Stiller, Robin Williams and Owen Wilson. Rated PG for mild action, some rude humor and brief language. Running time: 97 minutes.

'Penguins of Madagascar'
A quartet of penguins team with an undercover inter-species task force to stop a villainous cephalopod. Features the voices of Tom McGrath, Chris Miller, Chris Knights and Benedict Cumberbatch. Rated PG for mild action and some rude humor. Running time: 92 minutes.

'The Theory of Everything'
Cambridge University student and future physicist Stephen Hawking falls in love with fellow collegian Jane Wilde. At 21, Hawking learns that he has motor neuron disease. Despite this – and with Jane at his side – he begins an ambitious study of time. Stars Eddie Redmayne, Felicity Jones, and Charlie Cox. Rated PG-13 for some thematic elements and suggestive material. Running time: 123 minutes.

'Top Five'
A comic superstar trying to reinvent himself as a serious actor – while also preparing to marry his reality-star fiancee – reluctantly agrees to an interview that forces him to confront his career and past. Stars Chris Rock, Rosario Dawson, Kevin Hart and Tracy Morgan. Rated R for strong sexual content, nudity, crude humor, language throughout and some drug use. Running time: 102 minutes.

– From HP Staff and Wire Reports

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Disney Enterprises Inc. photo

Meryl Streep appears as The Witch in a scene from "Into the Woods."

'Into the Woods' weaves a magical, musical tale

Colin Covert

'Into the Woods'

★★★★

Starring: Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, James Corden, Anna Kendrick, Chris Pine, Johnny Depp

Directed by: Rob Marshall

Written by: James Lapine, adapted from the musical "Into the Woods"

Running time: 124 minutes

Rated: PG
(for thematic elements, fantasy action and peril, and some suggestive material)

Once upon a time, there was a magic land. Little Red Riding Hood lived there, with Cinderella, Rapunzel and Jack from the beanstalk. They tried to find unconditional love for their families but found it can be a horrible battle. Especially while confronting the Wicked Witch, who used to be the Devil Who Wears Prada. Or being wooed by the Big Bad Wolf, who used to be Sweeney Todd, and liked to eat women. Or Prince Charming, who was admittedly "charming, not sincere." They did not all live happily ever after, but wow, the audience did.

"Into the Woods" is a paean to the primal magic of storytelling. Brothers Grimm fairy tales were designed to be astonishing, but there's a deeper twisted anarchy in Stephen Sondheim's and James Lapine's Broadway blockbuster. Based on the bloodcurdling 19th-century German fables, adding characters from 17th-century France's Charles Perrault and several new creations of their own, their musical resembles a macabre children's book illustrated by Charles Addams. It begins seemingly prettified, simplified. Then it takes a sharp Act II turn from mollycoddling entertainment into mockery and melodrama.

Original Version Naughty Bits Spoiler Alert: Significant characters get slain, or sleep together lustfully, or kill and hook up concurrently. The new Disney translation tones things down ... a bit. It gives us a world of disregarded peasants, neglected children and rotten rulers – a world not so very far from today's. The story follows the escapades of a dozen storybook folk represented by a touching, top-tier Anglo-American cast, either stars or people who soon will be.

We quickly meet lovelorn Cinderella (Anna Kendrick), nearly pubescent Little Red Riding Hood (Lilla Crawford), farm boy dolt Jack (Daniel Huttlestone), the kind, obtuse village baker (James Corden) and his cookie-sweet, childless wife (Emily Blunt, in prime form like all the rest). They face off against a spell-casting hag (Meryl Streep), the Big Bad Wolf (Johnny Depp, with appetite in his eyes, a take that is shiftier, sexier and gorier than you bargained for) and the Prince (Chris Pine, poised to shatter the world record for one-night stands).

Director Rob Marshall, an Oscar nominee for his adaptation of "Chicago," made some controversyshy compromises here. The goth overtones are lighter than in the original Broadway staging (still available on home video), but the general weirdness has not been trimmed to unrecognizable dimensions. Marshall reworks it into an unforgettable fantasy of its own, a tolerably disquieting yet invitingly grim joy.

The heroes have more to contend with than the occasional angry giant. Isn't Cinderella's nasty stepmother even creepier, cutting off one daughter's toe and the other's heel to fit that slipper Cinder left at the Palace? (Christine Baranski is in fine form, by the way.)

Kendrick's misadventure with Pine is a grimly funny injunction not to yearn for a prince who may be rolling in money, but who cheats for fun. "Agony," his song about hammy heartbreak, is fabulous romantic parody.

Blunt is enchantingly touching and rich-voiced as the would-be mother, wistfully desiring a little child as much as the Wolf does, and a prince as much as Cinderella does. Her duets with Corden hit every note with remarkable musical and artistic sophistication. Streep also leads the fable to the sound-filled heavens, but if you've heard her sing in earlier movies you knew that already.

The point of it all is that disappointments can't be avoided, especially when childhood myths are turned on their heads. This is a musical full of discordant notes and compromises and problems; parents now and then bad to their offspring, kids at times imbecilic. It's deliberately fearsome, because being properly disturbed is a rite of passage for the questioning, rebellious child in all of us. A pleasurable, revealing, informative one.

Happy Holidays from The Herald-Palladium!

Lobby Hours:
Christmas Eve: 9:00am-12:00pm • Christmas Day: Closed
New Years Eve: 9:00am-12:00pm & 1:30pm-4:00pm • New Years Day: Closed

Newspaper Services Holiday Hours Schedule:
Christmas Eve: 7:00am-12:00pm • Christmas Day: 7:00am-10:00am
New Years Eve: 7:00am-4:00pm • New Years Day: 7:00am-10:00am

There will not be any re-deliveries of papers on Christmas Day.
All missed papers will be delivered with Friday's papers.

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